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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabinovich, Al-'Allaf on Syrian-Israeli Talks

TA0812204692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Report from Washington by Ya'ir Stern]

[Excerpts] In the icy weather of Washington, the peace talks are continuing on the basis of a very strange equation: The talks with Syria and Jordan are making satisfactory progress, while those with the Palestinians and Lebanon are, in simple words, a waste of time.

[Begin recording] [Stern] Have you received any indication from the Syrians—at least at yesterday's meeting—that they will be more specific with regard to their idea of the nature of peace during this round of talks?

[Itamar Rabinovich, chief Israeli delegate to talks with Syria] Not indications, but hints. I believe the problem is this: The good intentions are there, but there have been difficulties in translating the good intentions into action. There are things we can do because they depend on us, and there are things it is difficult for us to do because they belong to the other side, and of course, we cannot do the impossible in helping the other side to help itself. [end recording] [passage omitted]

It is not just Israel, which favors direct negotiations between the parties, that objects to U.S. involvement in the talks; Syria, too, believes the negotiations are on the right track and need no U.S. mediation at the moment.

[Begin recording: Syrian chief delegate al-'Allaf, in English] I do not know whether this is the best time to ask them to intervene more than they have done, but they have undertaken to really try to do that whenever they consider the peace process is in danger of facing a deadlock. But, I do not know. We did not consider requesting the Americans at this very moment to intervene. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Syria's al-'Allaf on Prospects for Progress

JN0812091092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Syria's chief delegate to the Washington peace talks has said that the first meeting of the eighth round that got underway yesterday focused on the fifth item of the Syrian document, addressing a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Emerging from the session, al-'Allaf said the Israeli side promised to put forward new formulas at today's meeting, slated for 1000 Washington time, 1700 Damascus time.

Prior to yesterday's session, al-'Allaf was asked about the prospects for progress in this round. He said that at every round, we hope to complete the mission ahead of us, and that is the peace process. However, he added, we do not know whether the other side, known to impede headway, will allow this to happen. Asked if the Syrian delegation had anything new to put forward in this round, al-'Allaf said there was nothing beyond the components of peace contained in the Syrian document. He reacted favorably to President Bush's reported offer to confer with the chief delegates to the peace process. Asked about the significance of such a meeting at this transitional period in the U.S. presidency, al-'Allaf said it might be meant to give a boost to the peace process. I think it is a good thing that before he leaves office, President Bush should take time off for the peace process. It may be that the president is driving home to President-elect Bill Clinton the importance he attaches to the peace process, al-'Allaf added.

Replying to another question, al-'Allaf said that if Israel persisted in its ambiguity about the withdrawal issue, it would continue to avoid the essence of the peace process.

Comments on Second Meeting

JN0812173292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Arab delegations have once again met with the Israeli side on the second day of talks in the eighth round of Middle East peace talks.

Prior to the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said in reply to a question on whether the Israelis had put forth any new ideas on withdrawal during yesterday's meeting: Nothing of that sort happened yesterday.

Asked whether the Syrian delegation is carrying new ideas on the nature of peace, he said: No. He also emphasized that the Syrian document presented during a previous session includes everything related to this matter, and states it very clearly.

Answering another question on the Israeli position based on not discussing the type of withdrawal before receiving a clear clarification on the nature of peace, al-'Allaf said: This means revolving in a vicious circle. For, if we really and seriously want to advance the peace process, then we should first implement the basic resolutions on which this peace process is based. Our document includes exhaustive details in this regard. What we say is that substantial issues related to how to implement basic resolutions should be discussed first. After agreeing on these essential issues, then we can move on to other topics.

Asked whether discussions along the Syrian-Israeli track of the talks will be confined to the Golan Heights or could include all the occupied Arab territories, al-'Allaf said: In our bilateral group, we discuss one of the components of the conflict, which is related to the Syrian and Israeli sides, keeping in mind, however, that the objective of the entire peace process is to reach a comprehensive settlement.

Answering another question, al-'Allaf expressed hope that the cosponsors of the peace conference would continue their efforts to help the parties advance the peace process.

Paper Said "Void" of New Ideas

JN0912091392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has declared that the Israeli side submitted, during yesterday's meeting, a new paper that is void of any new formulas or ideas.

In a statement after the meeting, he added: When the paper was discussed, it transpired that it contains the same Israeli ideas previously proposed, albeit in an amended form. The paper maneuvers over Israel's indispensable commitment to complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-'Allaf went on to say: The Israeli side has been informed that this paper does not help in any way to bring about progress. He indicated that the remaining amendments contained in this paper will be refuted in tomorrow's meeting.

Regarding his meeting with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, immediately after yesterday's session of talks, al-'Allaf said: The meeting was useful, even though it was a customary meeting, since we meet with the sponsor of the conference at the beginning of each round of talks, and also at the end, whenever this is found necessary.

Al-'Allaf added: The current status of the negotiations was reviewed. We voiced concern over the lack of any substantial change in the Israeli stand. We felt that Djerejian is immensely interested in what is taking place. He promised us that the sponsor will discuss the situation with the Israeli side and return to us to see if there is a possibility to advance the talks.

Answering a question on whether President Bush's decision to meet the chief delegates to the peace talks was raised during the meeting with Djerejian, al-'Allaf said: We touched on the issue. Djerejian said that this meeting will show that President Bush and the current administration are interested in the peace process, and further reflect this administration's determination to continue to play its role as a sponsor of the peace process and a catalyst to this process until the new administration takes over. This is being done through coordination between the current and incoming administrations.

For his part, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, acting head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has affirmed that the ideas proposed by the Israeli side to the talks thus far have remained illogical and impractical.

'Urayqat, who is heading the Palestinian delegation instead of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, added that there are four basic pillars governing the Palestinian position. These are a single authority, a single legal code encompassing all, single jurisdiction over the entire occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and an independent economic unity.

Jordanian Delegation Awaiting Israeli Reply

JN0812212592 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Interview with Jordanian chief delegate Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by unidentified reporter; in Washington on 8 December; from the "News at Ten" program—recorded]

[Text] Arab and Israeli peace negotiators went in another session of talks in Washington. The negotiators began their eighth round of talks yesterday.

Jordan's chief delegate, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, said after today's session that they talked about the language of the agenda, and that the delegation is awaiting Israeli response.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali, in progress] ...our negotiation in the eighth round. And we talked again on the language of the agenda, which we are awaiting response from the Israeli side. We hope that response will come soon. And our experts from both sides met on various subjects like the round before, on water, environment, energy, etc.. And we will resume our discussions tomorrow, we hope.

[Reporter] Dr. al-Majali, the White House announced today that President Bush is meeting with the heads of delegations at the end of this round. What do you think of this step, and do you think this is what is needed now at this stage?

[Al-Majali] I haven't heard myself, so it's good news, I suppose.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Israelis have still not responded to your request for clarifications on these one or two points in the agenda. As I gathered from what you said now, they still haven't. Have they given you any explanation as to why it's taking them so long?

[Al-Majali] Well, no real explanation. They're still thinking. They believe the language which still is in the agenda is good enough, and which we believe is not good enough because it does not absolutely clarify what we wanted to be clarified. [end recording]

Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian Comments Reported

JN0912083792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Arab and Israeli delegations continued their eighth round of talks in Washington. Muhammad al-Khatib, our correspondent in Washington, sent us the following report a short while ago:

[Begin al-Khatib recording] The Jordanian delegation to the Washington peace talks is still awaiting an Israeli reply to a proposed amendment of the agenda of talks as presented by the Jordanians at the previous round of talks.

Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, said the Israelis are procrastinating in replying to the Jordanian proposals and sometimes insisting on maintaining the current draft agenda without any amendments. The Jordanian side believes these amendments should be considered. Otherwise, the two sides would not be able to discuss the points of disagreement.

The Jordanians and Israelis continue to hold some informal meetings on the level of experts with the aim of probing positions on some aspects of the agenda such as water, energy, and environment. Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir stressed that the Jordanian delegation will not hold any official negotiations before an agreement is reached on the agenda.

Asked about the U.S. role in the peace talks, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said it is essential that the United States play an active role in order to narrow the gap of differences and expedite an agreement. He said U.S. President George Bush expressed a desire to meet with the delegations participating in the peace process at the end of the current round of talks with the aim of giving the process a new push and to confirm that all U.S. administrations are committed to the peace process.

On the Palestinian level, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, reiterated the Palestinian position on the proposed Israeli autonomy arrangements for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. She said the model presented by the Israelis is illegitimate and inapplicable. Dr. 'Ashrawi said the Palestinian side is participating in this round with a mini delegation of only four members with the aim of demonstrating commitment to the peace process by attending, but at the same protesting the failure to make progress in talks thus far. She called for a more active role by the two cosponsors, particularly the United States. She said the Middle East peace talks now need a restore hope operation, thus borrowing the name of the relief operation in Somalia. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi added that talks cannot continue forever and that continuing the talks without making any progress will only step up opposition and acts of violence.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said Syria hopes to hear new formulas from the Israeli delegation vis-a-vis withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He added that the Syrian side will not discuss the issue of diplomatic relations or any other relations unless Israel deals with what he termed as the basic issue, that is, withdrawal from the occupied territories. [end recording]

Shammas Rejects Israeli Proposal

NC0912110292 Shamlan Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] At the end of the Lebanese-Israeli session in Washington yesterday, Lebanese delegation sources said the delegation's head Ambassador Suhayl Shammas told the Israelis that their proposal on military officers participating in the negotiations is part of a peace treaty, which is rejected by Lebanon. He said the two sides have not agreed on inviting experts or on the mechanism of their work. He said the negotiations will be long and difficult and that the process of exploring positions and views continues. Shammas said: Let us hope for the best.

On an Israeli delegation remark that Israel's patience is beginning to run out, the Lebanese sources said the Lebanese delegation will not give in to threats or attempts at pressure to achieve Israeli goals.

Arabs Not To Attend on Intifadah Anniversary

JN0912080792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Arab delegations to the Middle East peace talks in Washington have decided not to attend today's session of talks on the occasion of the Palestinian intifadah anniversary. Today, the intifadah begins its sixth year.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, told reporters that the decision to suspend today's session was taken in solidarity with the Palestinians and in appreciation of the intifadah, which erupted on 9 December 1987.

Powers in Transitional Period Detailed

TA0912121092 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Qeren Neubach]

[Excerpt] According to the description of the transitional period Israel has presented to the Palestinians, an administrative council of settlers will be set up alongside the Palestinian administrative council, and a committee will be established to coordinate between the two councils. This committee will produce secondary coordination committees for the land, water, and legal issues. This was reported by Palestinian sources in the territories associated with the Palestinian delegation.

The Palestinians have prepared a diagram of the hierarchy of powers, based on the Israeli proposal, and presented it to Edward Djerejian, the U.S. deputy secretary of state. According to the Palestinian sources, Djerejian expressed his dissatisfaction with the Israeli offers as presented by the Palestinians. This is the background for the letter Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger's sent to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressing his displeasure with Israel's offers.

Israeli sources have reported that Jerusalem believes Washington would intervene in the current round of talks for the first time and make offers of its own. There is, however, no certainty that this step would be taken in view of the enlarged size of the Palestinian delegation.

The Palestinian sources further reported that, according to the Israeli offer, Jordan will be deeply involved in the management of the territories, and that the Palestinian administrative council will, in fact, be subject to an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian supreme coordinating council. The Israeli military government will remain the supreme authority in the territories, and both the Palestinian and the settlers' councils will be subject to it. The superior coordination committee will produce from it superior coordinating committees to run parallel with the Palestinian administration branches such as education, health, agriculture, legal issues, police, finance, industry, communication, labor, and employment. The Palestinian administrative council will be subject to the military government, which will retain residual powers [last two words in English] mainly on issues such as security, home and foreign affairs, ecology, transportation, and legislative powers.

It appears that the recent discussions in Israel about the establishment of a civil guard for the settlers are connected with this concept. The civil guard will be the settlers' equivalent of the Palestinian police force. The establishment of a civil guard protecting the settlers will allow disarming them at another stage.

According to this concept, the settlers' regional councils will be subject to their administrative council. The Israeli electricity and water authorities will remain connected to the settlements, but there is no clarity regarding their status in the Palestinian area. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Peace Talks, Israel, Hamas

NC0812125392 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 2

[Interview with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Muhammad Matar in Mauritania; date not given]

[Text] [Matar] Let us begin with the victory of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton. How does this affect the peace talks? And what is the method of dealing with the new U.S. Administration?

['Arafat] We have dealt with all U.S. presidents, Democrats and Republicans. What we are dealing with is the policy of a major country. The U.S. president has political importance and is committed to the establishment's policies. What interests me is this: Will Clinton be committed to the peace process initiated by President George Bush? There is another point of interest to me and all Arabs, Muslims and Christians. It has to do with what Clinton said during the election campaign that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel. This statement is undoubtedly at variance with the traditional U.S. position, a position the United States has officially endorsed at the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and the UN General Assembly. The United States acted in line with that position when it refused to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem. I sincerely hope that what Clinton said was merely part of the election campaign. I have sent Clinton a message congratulating him on his election victory and referring to President Bush's initiative to bring about peace in the Middle East. I reminded Clinton of his initiative on human rights and democracy. I asked him: What about Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories? Can there be democracy when the Israelis reject holding legislative elections by the Palestinian people? I called on Clinton—as I called on previous U.S. Presidents before elections—to recognize the need for the Palestinian people to be given protection in the face of continuing human rights violations. There is a need to implement the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Palestinian people and land and Islamic and Christian sacred sites in Palestine. International protection for the Palestinian people and the sacred sites and land would be in keeping with UN resolutions 605, 607, 608, 681, and 726.

[Matar] Over a year has passed since the Arab-Israeli peace talks started. What have the Palestinians achieved?

['Arafat] Practically nothing. The Palestinian people still live under occupation and are being subjected to Israel's entire range of repression, imprisonment, school and university closures, and other forms of oppression. Settlements continue to be built. All that Yitzhaq Rabin did was to differentiate between security settlements and political settlements, but the forms of settlement are illegitimate and we can accept none. We have not formed the self-government [al-hukumah al-dhatiyah]. Despite letters of invitation and guarantees, we have not made any progress in this direction and the Israelis have not produced any idea or proposal to encourage the Palestinian negotiators to continue.

[Matar] You mentioned no progress in the talks. Do you believe the Palestinian side needs to reconsider its negotiating strategy in view of the coup staged by Prime Minister Rabin in the negotiations? Hasn't Rabin infiltrated [ikhtiraq] the Arab front and obtained greater room to maneuver?

['Arafat] Rabin has not infiltrated the Arab front. The continuous meetings of the cordon countries—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine—in Amman, Damascus, and Beirut proves this. There is complete agreement among the Arab sides that the solution should be comprehensive and just. Any solution must consider the interests and rights of the Arab people and the Palestinian nation, including that nation's right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital in the final phase. Don't forget that Rabin's policy is no different from Shamir's. The Israeli policy has not changed. Israel does not want to make progress on the Palestinian track. It wants to freeze the Palestinian issue and reach separate agreements with the Arabs. We thank God the Arab people know of this scheme and that there is continuing coordination and agreement among the Arab delegations participating in the talks.

[Matar] The eighth round of peace negotiations is imminent. The Palestinian stand on whether to participate is not clear. What about the recent meeting between the PLO leadership and the Palestinian delegation?

['Arafat] The outcome of the previous two rounds of the negotiations with Israel in Washington was "zero." We delayed making a decision until after holding contacts at the Arab, international, Islamic, and Christian levels. There are intense diplomatic contacts with the United States, Russia, and Arab governments. We decided to send envoys to the peace process co-sponsors, the United States and Russia. The envoys will ask the United States to resume the official dialogue with the PLO. We demand that international observers be sent immediately to protect the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip occupied by Israel. The picture will become clearer in a few days.

[Matar] Some believe the Egyptian-French role that has started to take shape, particularly after President Mubarak's visit to Paris and President Mitterrand's tour of the region, could be a balancing factor to pressure Israel and Washington. What do you think?

['Arafat] We hope so. But we must consider the Arabs' demand that the European role be effective and influential. But we have not achieved this. We believe Europe's role is not transient, but basic and influential, especially that of France, which is playing a welcome role. The French president's recent statements emphasized the French commitment to freedom, peoples' rights, peace, and the principles of international legitimacy. Our relations with Egypt are special and are above any words or statements. We don't regard the Egyptian brothers as observers in the peace process but full partners. Throughout the Palestinian struggle, we have appreciated and valued the great role played by Egypt and all that President Mubarak is doing personally to ensure the success of the peace process.

[Matar] Some believe the current freeze in progress in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations serves 'Arafat's new strategy based on the principle of negative pressure, not making any positive contribution to the negotiations, to get "the big prize," Israel's historic recognition of the PLO. What is your view?

['Arafat] This is not accurate. We do not regard it as the big prize, as you say, or a great prize. Evidence of this is that during the Israeli election campaign, Rabin told Shamir in a television debate: "You are deceiving the Israeli people," because you are negotiating with and talking to the PLO. The world and Israel know that the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations represents the PLO. Yet they are trying to hide the sun with their hands. I can confirm to you that there is no negative or political pressure. Our policy is based on the comprehensive and just solution that includes complete withdrawal from the Arab territories, including Jerusalem. It is not fair to say that this serves my policy. It does not serve my policy, that of the PLO, or that of the Palestinian people, but serves only the policy of the Israeli Government and Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Matar] You have said you are ready to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Tunisian president recently said his country is willing to host such a meeting. Are you really ready for it?

['Arafat] An important point: when we speak about peace, when I speak or anyone speaks, we are saying: I want to make peace with the enemies, not with the friends. That's what happened with Prophet Muhammad and the infidels in al-Hudaybiyah peace meeting and what happened between the Algerian revolutionaries and De Gaulle. I am looking for a De Gaulle among the Israelis but can't find him.

[Matar] But you were enthusiastic about Rabin's victory in the Israeli elections. Didn't some people even argue that you helped him to win?

['Arafat] This is not true. I never interfered in the Israeli election battle.

[Matar] The Palestinians repeatedly announced that if Israel received the U.S. loan guarantees, they would take a hardline position. Israel did receive the loan guarantees and the Palestinians did nothing. How do you explain this?

['Arafat] Who told you we did not take a position on this? We presented unambiguous memoranda to the Americans rejecting the provision of these guarantees at the expense of the Palestinian people. They told us the funds will not be used to build any settlement inside the green line. Regrettably, when Rabin returned from the United States, he embarked on building 11,000 housing units in the West Bank and 14,000 housing units in Jerusalem.

We asked the United States to check on Israel's settlement activity using its satellites.

[Matar] Differences on the Palestinian scene, especially between Hamas and Fatah, are still raging. This could affect the Palestinian march and the peace negotiations. What is the size of these differences?

['Arafat] All this talk about Hamas gives the movement more than its true weight on the Palestinian scene. The clash was not between Hamas and Fatah, but between Hamas and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Hamas resorted to violence when it failed to win democratically. Recent statistics show that the movement enjoys no more than 12 percent of the vote in the occupied territories. But I would like to emphasize pluralism in the PLO. Not all members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] approved our 1988 peace plan and only 84 percent of members approved our participation in Madrid. Hamas has always been an integral part of the PNC, with representation commensurate with its true weight.

[Matar] You say you accepted Security Council Resolution 242. But Israel did not accept it as it applies to the Palestinians and accepted it within its talks with the Syrians. How do you explain this?

['Arafat] We accepted negotiating during the first phase an interim self-government in the West Bank and Gaza and its scope of power based on Security Council Resolution 242. But the Israelis have failed to announce that they accept the resolution as the basis of the negotiations during the interim. That is why we have not embarked on a serious discussion of establishing the interim government and transferring authority to it. We understand the transfer of authority means full authority. The basis, again, is Resolution 242 and the purpose is to negotiate an interim phase with an interim government linked with the final phase, which should let our people achieve their right to a state and self-determination.

[Matar] How do you evaluate the role the United States and Russia, the sponsors of the peace negotiations, have played, knowing that the Americans also oppose a Palestinian state?

['Arafat] The Americans have not intervened as much as they should. The first year of negotiations has passed. According to the letter of invitation and the letter of assurances, the interim self-government was to have been declared by now. We expected the United States to play a more active role. We hope it will shoulder its responsibility and apply the necessary pressure. We also hope Russia, as a cosponsor of the peace process, will continue its efforts to bring about a lasting and comprehensive settlement. American opposition to a Palestinian state is not categorical. Indeed they do not oppose this state if it moves toward a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. As for us, in accordance with the resolutions of the PNC and the PLO Central Council, we accept a confederation with Jordan after launching the national Palestinian entity.

Comments on Talks, Fundamentalists

PM0812133892 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 6 Dec 92 p10

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Simonetta Della Seta in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tunis—[passage omitted] [Della Seta] Why do you consider the negotiations to be at a dead end?

['Arafat] We have proposed electing an authority in the territories for the period of transitional self-government, but the Israelis continue to offer us administrative councils. We have asked for confirmation that the negotiations are based on UN resolution 242 ("peace in exchange for territories") not only for Syria but also for us, but they refuse to apply it. Meanwhile the occupation regime is as it was before, if not worse. This is not progress. It means we have gone back to below zero. Not even the co-sponsors have kept their promises, namely the concessions which were supposed to come within a year of Madrid.

[Della Seta] Are you alluding to a reopening of the dialogue between the PLO and the United States?

['Arafat] That is one of many things. Undoubtedly a crucial step.

[Della Seta] Let us suppose these talks had not reached this "moribund" stage. What scenario would you like to see in the next six months?

['Arafat] The end of so much suffering in Gaza, for instance. How is it possible to sit down at peace negotiations and carry on oppressing people? I am now convinced that [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin is like [former Israeli Prime Minister] Shamir: He has no intention of solving the Palestinian question. It seems to me rather that his tactics are to normalize relations with the other Arab countries and pass over the problem we represent. He has said it himself: He considers us an ethnic community like the Kurds. He is mistaken. We are not the new American Indians. Without a solution which gives us independence, there will be no stability in the region.

[Della Seta] So you fear Israel will make a "separate peace" with Syria, and perhaps even with Jordan?

['Arafat] I do not think the Arab countries will go that far. Of course there is a problem of coordination. In a case of this sort, they would not reach a "comprehensive" peace anyway, indeed they would encourage the extremist fundamentalist forces among the Palestinians."

[Della Seta] Is it not annoying for you that Damascus is still offering hospitality to all the Palestinian groups opposed to peace, while the Syrians themselves are engaged in talks?

['Arafat] It is a gross contradiction. I would ask you to demand an explanation directly from President al-Asad when you see him.

[Della Seta] What kind of war are you conducting against your fundamentalist opponents in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

['Arafat] There are problems. There would be even fewer if Israel did something in that direction, instead of always hitting our Fatah people. However, Hamas is just a group; it is still we who represent Palestinian identity.

[Della Seta] Also in Israeli eyes, possibly for the first time. Now that the Jewish state's citizens can meet freely with the PLO; now that you, Mr. President, can give long interviews to the Israeli press and reach public opinion directly, from the front pages, has something not changed?

['Arafat] Yes, and I am very satisfied with this. The Israelis are talking about (the leadership in) Tunis in a new, true way; they want to get to know us. We have many friends among them.

[Della Seta] Except for the opposition and...Rabin?

['Arafat] I cannot help recalling two things. The first is the image of Rabin during the Israeli siege of Beirut in 1982, when he joined General Sharon even though he was out of the government at that time: I remember them when they laughed together to witness our defeat. The second is what Rabin said to Shamir during the televised electoral debate before last June's elections: "You are misleading the Israeli people because, even though you deny it, you are speaking clearly to the PLO through the Palestinian delegates." He is a man I cannot trust.

[Della Seta] The past is over and Rabin could say the same thing about you. Do you not think that this to-ing and fro-ing of messages, even negative ones, which you are sending each other, could be similar to what went on between [former Israeli Prime Minister] Begin and [former Egyptian President] Al-Sadat before the Egyptian president arrived in Jerusalem?

['Arafat] I wish that were so.

[Della Seta] Then send another message.

['Arafat] I am still looking for the Israeli De Gaulle; if not that, then a De Klerk. Someone who would not treat us like Indians. You see Foreign Minister Peres does not say "Palestinians" like Rabin, but "Palestinian people". That is already a step forward.

[Della Seta] And you, Mr. President, which great man do you resemble? How do you want history to remember you?

['Arafat] As the man who put the Palestinian people back on the map.

[Della Seta] Will you lead them as far as a state?

['Arafat] That is not certain. I have already said this several times, it happened to Churchill, it could also happen to me: There are great leaders whom the people themselves decide to abandon after the victory.

Claims No Progress in Talks

AU0812110292 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 7-8 Dec 92 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Brigitte Voykowitsch, in Tunis on 5-6 December: "Supply Us Like the Kurds"]

[Text] "We are still marking time in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations," 'Arafat said in a talk with a group of 15 European journalists, among them Brigitte Voykowitsch, the representative of DER STANDARD, during a UN "fact-finding mission" on the Palestinian question in Tunis at the weekend [5-6 December].

[Voykowitsch] Are you really of the opinion that nothing has been achieved?

['Arafat] Nothing. On the contrary. There is a minus: Before Madrid one talked of us as the Palestinian people. Now we are only the Palestinians. Peres at least referred to us as a people before the United Nations. But Rabin avoids the term. Rabin is pursuing the same line toward the Palestinians as Shamir before him.

[Voykowitsch] Let us suppose that things will move in Washington. What scenario do you want to see in six months?

['Arafat] Six months? Another six months? Do not forget that every day crimes are committed against our children in our holy Muslim and Christian places. There are reports by teams of American, Belgian, and Dutch doctors, who confirm that chemical weapons have been used against us. Therefore, during the Intifadah as many as 8,000 deformed children were born, 4,500 Palestinians became cripples, 112,000 were injured, and about 100,000 arrested.

People are starving in Palestine. They should at least be supplied with food like the Kurds. Last year, I obtained food in China, Malaysia, and Indonesia for my people in Gaza and on the West Bank. Go there yourself and have a look at the tragedy of my people.

[Voykowitsch] It is claimed that the PLO itself is responsible for the fact that nothing is changing there. The people who live there would permit progress, but not the PLO, since it insists on a final solution.

['Arafat] Thank you very much for this great diatribe. Where are you from?

[Voykowitsch] I am only quoting what Palestinians have told me.

['Arafat] We have officially offered interim solutions ourselves. What you are saying is completely wrong. We have agreed to a sensible autonomy right from the beginning.

UN Resolution 242 is the basis for the peace process. However, until today Rabin has refused to apply it to Palestinian land—Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. But 242 is supposed to be valid for Golan? Why? The Israelis are not interested in progress with the Palestinians.

[Voykowitsch] Would you be prepared to accept an interim solution, without a final solution being firmly promised at the same time?

['Arafat] According to the invitation to Madrid, 242 applies to all territories that are part of the negotiations, to Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian territories.

[Voykowitsch] How do you assess the progress in the Israelis' negotiations with the Syrians and Jordanians?

['Arafat] It is Israel's tactics to normalize its relations with the Arabs by bypassing the Palestinians. I am sure that the Arabs will not accept that. We have advocated a just and comprehensive solution. That does not mean that all talks have to progress at the same pace. But Shamir recently told me...

[interjection by 'Arafat's aide] Rabin...

['Arafat] Rabin, Shamir, ... these are only the two sides of the same coin. Rabin recently told me that we do not have any rights and that we are only a small group like the Kurds or the Basques.

[Voykowitsch] How do you assess the fact that in the first reading the Israeli parliament voted for the repealing of the law that prohibits contacts with the PLO?

['Arafat] It is a step in the right direction. We owe it to our friends in the "Peace Now" movement, in the Labor Party, in the Rats Party, and to the Arab members of the Knesset.

[Voykowitsch] How are the relations between the PLO and the Muslim movement "Hamas"?

['Arafat] Not good. We are interested in normal relations. But they still refuse to be part of the PLO. Only recently, in an agreement with Iran, they presented themselves as the only representation of the Palestinians—instead of the PLO. But the PLO is not an organization, the PLO is our identity. Nevertheless, Hamas is financed by the Gulf states and by Iran.

[Voykowitsch] What do you expect of the new U.S. Administration?

['Arafat] The Israelis can hardly get more support than under Bush. But we hope that Clinton's comments on Jerusalem were only election propaganda. No Arab, no Muslim, and no Christian would ever accept Clinton's ideas about the future of the Holy City....

Rabin says that I am the biggest obstacle to peace. I am of the opinion that he is an obstacle. Thus, let us arrange a meeting and remove the obstacles!

[Voykowitsch] Would a change in the PLO leadership be conceivable?

['Arafat] Are you against our democracy? I was elected by the Palestinian National Council in free elections. This question is outrageous!

[Voykowitsch] You recently told an Israeli newspaper that Churchill was a great warlord, but a different leadership was necessary for peace.

['Arafat] At that time, the question was: Will you be the first president of an independent Palestinian state? I said that in a democracy nobody can predict that and then I mentioned Churchill.

But our main objective is independence and peace for our children in the terra santa.

[Voykowitsch] You have painted a very gloomy picture.

['Arafat] I do not have oil, only olive oil, no petroleum. My power is my credibility.

[Voykowitsch] On the fifth anniversary of the Intifadah there have been considerations to change the methods. The strike harms above all the Palestinians.

['Arafat] We have already reduced the number of strikes. But the Intifadah will go on, this is our fate. Nobody can escape his fate.

Stresses Unity to Christian Arabs

LD0812233392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The brother president and leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has stressed that Israel's attempts to overlook the rights of our people and reject the principles of the peace process will not succeed in the face of the determination of our people to stand together as one behind their leadership, continue the struggle, and escalate the intifadah until the ending of occupation and the retrieval of the inalienable rights.

Addressing the participants at the fifth general orthodox conference of the sons of the Arab orthodox Christian community in our sacred land today, the brother President Abu-'Ammar further said that this blessed intifadah of our people will continue until the flag of Palestine, the flag of freedom, independence, and justice is raised, and until we enter holy Jerusalem.

Here is the text of the message: Brother participants in the 5th general orthodox conference, the brother sons of the Arab orthodox community in our sacred land. Blessed greetings: On the occasion of the holding of your fifth general conference in Amman, it pleases me to greet you, on my behalf and on that of all my brothers in the Palestinian leadership; to greet the participants, the guests, and the sons of the community, and to send you my warmest salutations and heartfelt wishes to succeed in the work of your respected conference.

I wish you also success in your good and blessed efforts to unify the ranks of the sons of the graceful orthodox community and to achieve common action between its sons for the good of the realization of their wishes and objectives and aspirations for development and growth so as to be loyal soldiers for the cause of the liberation of Palestine and the defending of its land and sanctities.

Beloved brothers; the convening of your respected conference coincides with the intifadah of our Palestinian people entering its 6th year with more incandescence and vigor against the Israeli enemy. The enemy is escalating the iron fist policy against the sons of our people in our sacred land whether through repression, tyranny, detention, and jail, or through killings, bullets, and the demolishing and closing down of homes, or by destroying crops, confiscating lands and waters, continuous violation of Islamic and Christian sanctities, and by the changing of the religious and demographic features of the holy lands in order to Judaize them and fill them up with Jewish settlers. This is in addition to the daily crimes and the savage aggressions it is perpetrating against the sons of our people in the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

Despite all these violations of the rights of our Palestinian people, the latter will remain steadfast, entrenched in the land of the sacred encampment [ribat], the blessed land of Palestine, holding on to their right to their own homeland and their Jerusalem, the homeland of the fathers and forefathers, the place of ascension of the prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the birthplace of Christ, may peace be upon him.

I affirm to you at this venerable conference that this blessed intifadah of our people will continue, wave after wave. It will never relent or come to a standstill until a cub scout of my sacred country, or a flower [girl scout] from its good land, raises the flag of Palestine, the flag of freedom, independence, the flag of justice in the land, on its mosques, and its churches; until we enter together to pray in holy Jerusalem, the first of the two Qibla and third of the two holy places, and in the Holy Sepulcher

The brother leader Abu-'Ammar further said: From here, we affirm to you that we will not shun any effort to achieve a just peace for our people and in the region. Therefore, we are participating in the current peace process on the basis of the resolutions of our national council and central council, and on the basis of the principles contained in the initiative of President Bush, the two letters of invitations, and the guarantees for the peace conference, and on the basis of the relevant international legality, particularly resolutions 242 and 338, and the right to self-determination for our people.

The attempts by Israel to overlook the rights of our people, sometimes by trickery and sometimes by rejection of these principles, will not succeed before the determination of our people to stand together, as one, behind their leadership in order to continue the struggle and escalate the intifadah until the end of the Israeli occupation and the retrieval and exercising of our people's national inalienable rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to set up their own independent state with Jerusalem as capital. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Comments on 8th Round, Israeli Proposals

TA0812162192 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 7 Dec 92 p 16

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; date and place not given]

[Text] Q: The Palestinians declared just a few days ago that they would participate in the eighth round of the peace talks. But Palestinians had been protesting that the talks need to bear some fruit. Has there been any change in the Palestinian position?

A: The Palestinian position never advocated the boycott of the negotiations. This needs to be made clear. The decision was that no Arab side would declare or give its answers until after the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers following consultations with their respective governments. Unfortunately, the Arab governments declared their intention to participate before the meeting. It was the Palestinian side which abided by the agreement not to take a position on the next round until after the meeting of the participating Arab sides.

During the interim between the seventh and the eighth rounds, the Palestinians conducted an extensive assessment of the negotiations, especially of the sixth and seventh rounds. Its purpose was to evaluate what has or has not been accomplished, and to use the time between the sessions to conduct a very intensive diplomatic effort and contact to explain the Palestinian position, and to prove why the Israeli proposals not only do not work or are implementable, but are in violation of the objectives of the negotiations. The diplomatic and political move included contacts with the cosponsors as well as the Europeans, the Arab sides and with even some parties in Israel.

Q: The Palestinians declared that they do not want to participate in the coming around because it will not lead to anything. Some thought that if it is a transitional period between the old U.S. administration and the new one then why not wait until the new administration takes office.

A: I don't think this is the Palestinian position. The Palestinian side never officially declared that it will not participate in the next round or that it wants to postpone the next round until after the elections. On the contrary, the Palestinians were the only side which said that during the transitional period between the two administrations the Palestinians are willing to achieve genuine progress to form the basis of a foundation of progress after the inauguration of the new administration. The transitional stage was viewed as one in which both the outgoing and the incoming administrations expressed their interests in genuine progress in order to inject the peace process with momentum and in order to give it a sense of direction and a clear firm foundation. We assured all sides including the co-sponsors that we are willing to engage in serious and substantial issues to reach such an agreement. We did not play the waiting game.

Unfortunately, it takes more than one side to agree or negotiate. It is our feeling that the Israeli side is playing the waiting game and is trying to postpone any kind of progress and any serious negotiations until after inauguration of Clinton. We knew all along that a new administration was going to turn its attention to domestic affairs basically economic, health and other issues and not to foreign policy. We thought that in order to maintain the peace process and on the proper track that the transitional phase can be very effective. However, we could not singlehandedly decide or bring about real progress in the negotiations because as I said earlier that the Israeli side also has to make their commitment.

Having spent most of the seventh round, if not all of it, especially during the informal talks, trying to flush out the Israeli proposals and to extract from the details of their models, what emerged proved the Israeli model is unworkable and illegal and does not address the real issues.

Q: Then what do you expect from the eighth round? Do you expect any results or just to continue discussions?

A: It's hard to project. If we go to the eighth round, we need to not only demonstrate why the Israeli model does not work and violates the terms of reference but to go ahead with the Palestinian model. At the same time, we need to continue pressing issues of human rights as a real test case as proof of Israeli intentions and serious commitment to the peace process.

We will continue with the issue of territoriality and the issue of legislation and authority. The Israeli model does not address these issues in any satisfactory way. On the contrary, they have tried to transform the transitional phase into a phase of legitimizing the settlements, of dual authority, power sharing, organizing settlement activity and creating a set up that would lead either to apartheid or to annexation of part of the occupied territories. In other words they would have already preempted the final outcome.

So we are dealing with the issue of territoriality as one of the most pressing issues, especially in terms of reference of (Security council Resolution) 242 and the principle of land for peace. We are trying to show that if you have a model that you have to incorporate or accommodate the settlements in any transitional phase. It means that any model which emerges from such a premise is going to be very seriously flawed and is not going to lead to any genuine transitional phase with real transfer of authority.

Q: Then can we say that the talks will lead to dramatic changes?

A: I think we are beyond expecting the talks to lead to sudden, dramatic changes. I think this is a very long, painstaking process. One has to adopt the attitude of seriousness, of persistence, to deal with every single detail and not to lose perspective, not to lose faith in one's own abilities and one's own rights.

To me, the basic problem is that everybody is evaluating every round as if each round is going to see a dramatic breakthrough. I think the effect is going to be more incremental than a dramatic breakthrough. And it means attempting to extract your rights bit by bit instead of getting the Israelis to suddenly recognize your rights and shift their position. It became very clear from the beginning. We never expected the Israelis to come with a model or with a proposal that we could accept in the beginning. The same way as our proposal or model, they didn't accept it from the beginning. This is the nature of negotiations.

Q: The Israelis are trying to convey their model to the Palestinians in the occupied territories by meeting officials or public representatives. Do you think that such movement will help or does it aim to create friction between the delegation and the people?

A: The delegation was assigned the task or delegated it by the PLO. It is not in itself a political leadership, but at the same time the PLO is aware of all the proposals, programs, of every document, and they are in charge of the decision-making on the peace process. So it is like trying to bypass the PLO to try to get to people here, to convince them. This is first of all, interference in our own domestic affairs and politics internally. At the same time, they are trying to bypass the leadership. First, they tried not to talk to the PLO and to talk only to the delegation. Now they are talking to people directly and not to the delegation. In a sense, it is part of a series of attempts at trying to preempt or intervene in Palestinian affairs, to push something through which is not workable. If it is anybody's responsibility to explain the Israeli model and to present or report it at the negotiations, it is the responsibility of the political leadership not the Israelis.

Q: The Israelis proposed a kind of land control. They want to give about 62 percent of land to the Palestinians to control and 30 percent a kind of common control and the settlements would be under Israeli control. What do you think of this proposal?

A: First of all, they cannot give us something which does not belong to them, even when they talk about 62 percent of the land as Palestinian land. It is actually Palestinian land; they are not giving it to us gratuitously. It is under occupation. The whole 100 percent is Palestinian land under occupation, and it was occupied in 1967 including Jerusalem. So in attempting to create equal rights in land and dual control of the land and ownership, they are already violating the terms of reference. We have to discuss how to restore the land to the rightful owners rather than how to share the land and to create a parallel legitimacy for the Israeli settlers. Moreover, we must make the peace process incorporate the illegal expropriation of land in the occupied territories.

It's not only not a question of percentages, it is also a question of the basic principles and the objectives of the peace process. If you look at percentages for the settlements they are very misleading because the settlements have bisected or dismembered the occupied territories and control the crucial or critical areas. This means they have already prejudiced the final outcome by creating a geographic reality on the ground which would prevent in any way the emergence of a coherent Palestinian entity and permanent status because they have fragmented the territories, and they have created a reality which totally prevents any kind of geographic continuity or the territorial integrity of the occupied territories. Also we do not recognize the new category of state land which they have created or about 20 percent of land because this is actually land in common or belongs to the Palestinians.

Q: Following the PLO evaluations of the peace talks, I think a clear plan was decided for the coming round of talks. Can you tell us about the points the Palestinians will be concentrating on during the coming round?

A: Basically the three major areas which are serious areas of disagreement are: territoriality, legislation, which includes jurisdiction, and human rights, which Israel has been using as a bargaining chip in the negotiations.

Q: Of course you will discuss details on other issues and among these issues there was a decision to found committees, one regarding human rights violations. It was mentioned that there were discussions between Palestinians and Israelis regarding this issue, then the Palestinians changed their minds and decided not to discuss the cases but discuss the principles.

A: This is actually very misleading. First of all, we have never formed committees. We have had informal discussions, informal talks. We were the ones who proposed an informal discussion group on human rights, and we will stick to it. When we started discussing human rights, it turned out that the Israelis wanted to transform this issue into an issue of individual cases of the Palestinians petitioning the delegation, to become wasta (influential people) or an intermediary or petitioner on behalf of individual cases. We told them very clearly, we are not petitioners, we are discussing issues and broad categories and not individual cases. We do not want to be transformed into a village league and it would undermine our negotiating position. This is not negotiations between occupied and occupiers in this sense or petitions or asking for favors. This is affirming the rights of Palestinians to human rights, to decent human treatment on the basis of the Fourth Geneva Convention. We will pursue these attempts to bring Israel to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention and to prevent Israel from using the human rights issue either as a pressure tool or as a bargaining chip or for the sake of political blackmail.

Q: While there are still many obstacles, the Israeli Knesset voted to change the law regarding having contact with the PLO. How do you see such a step?

A: I think it is an important step, and the Israelis themselves were very unhappy with it. It is their responsibility to try and change the law because the law itself is undemocratic.

Palestinian Statement Called 'Warning' to U.S.

TA0812164192 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Palestinian Warning!"]

[Text] The Palestinian statement on "limited" participation in the talks of the eighth round, which will begin in Washington today, is a warning to the U.S. sponsor not to fail to adhere to President Bush's initiative and the Madrid peace conference. The statement also warns the U.S. to cease appeasing policies toward Israel and play the role of honest broker in the peace process. The talks are now on the threshold of collapse because the U.S. sponsor has not shown any interest in adjusting the tracks of this process after the Israeli negotiator diverted those tracks, by means of trickery, procrastination, and obstinacy, from the course necessary to reach the desired destination.

This time Palestinian participation came in commitment to the peace process and in a bid to secure the conditions of success for this process by making the U.S. Administration understand that it is futile to continue with the negotiating process as long as there is no serious and active U.S. effort to prevent the peace process from collapsing. This, after the intransigent Israeli stance had brought this process to a dead end through its impractical plans and proposals which seek to divide the land, split the people, and legitimize occupation.

In light of this Palestinian perception, the significance of U.S. and European intervention to determine new and clear bases for the tracks which henceforth the peace process will follow becomes evident. These tracks should surpass the Israeli red traffic lights which have brought the train of settlement to a standstill at the same positions that have been rejected by the Palestinians and the Arabs since the peace process began more than a year ago.

We believe that it will not be easy for the Palestinian and Arab negotiator to persuade the average Palestinian and Arab to continue participating in the upcoming rounds of negotiations if the situation remains as it is in the eighth round—whether with respect to Israeli stubbornness or with respect to U.S. disregard of all Israeli practices that impede the peace process.

'Impasse' Expected at 8th Round of Peace Talks

TA0812182592 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Round Without Expectations"]

[Text] The extent of Palestinian participation in the negotiations of the eighth round which began in Washington yesterday highlights Palestinian interest and expectations from this round. These results will not add anything that can be relied on to give new impetus toward saving the peace process from impasse. This impasse has been driven by Israeli positions that refuse to respond positively to the requirements of peace.

On the eve of this round, there is no indication either in the U.S. or in the Israeli arena that there is any real desire by Washington or Tel Aviv to give the eighth round of talks an impetus that will differentiate it, even slightly, from the previous rounds.

Hence, the Palestinian leadership realized, through its sagacity and precise reading of the situation, that there will be nothing new and no hopes should be pinned on a round convened at the end of President Bush's Administration. President Bush is getting ready to leave the White House on 20 January so that the new president, Clinton, can assume his official duties. Therefore, this leadership authorized a very "limited" participation since the situation in the eighth round will be no different from the seventh or from the preceding rounds.

We believe that the strength of the Arab negotiating stance and its cohesion with the principles of joint coordination, based on adherence to a unified negotiating strategy and commitment to full implementation of UN resolutions, is a sure guarantee that sooner or later the Arabs and the Palestinians will achieve their goals.

Pessimism Expressed on Outcome of Washington Talks

LD0812215592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] O brothers, the size of the Palestinian participation in the eighth round of negotiations which opened in Washington yesterday reveals the extent of Palestinian interest in this round and the degree of expectations on its outcome; it is by no means certain that the outcome will give a fresh new impetus toward salvaging the peace process from the impasse in which the Israeli attitude of rejecting any response to the peace requirements have cornered it.

There is nothing on either the American or the Israeli scene on the eve of this round that indicates the least genuine desire in Washington and Tel Aviv to give the peace process, in its eighth round, an impetus to distinguish it slightly from the past rounds. Therefore, the Palestinian leadership has realized through its penetrating perception of things and its meticulous reading of reality that there is nothing new in a round—nor are hopes pinned on this round—which is being held in the last part of the transitional period of the Bush administration. Bush, who will leave the White House on 20 January when the new President, Clinton, assumes his official duties, has opted for a very limited participation so long as the situation in the eighth round does not differ from that in the seventh or previous rounds. [passage omitted]

Researcher Cites Arab 'Failure' in Somalia

PM0812125692 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5-6 Dec 92 p11

[Article by "Palestinian researcher" Dr. Hatim al-Husayni: "Somalia: New Imperialism and Arab and Islamic Failure"]

[Text] Somalia is an Arab Islamic state and a member of the Arab League and the Islamic group but soon it will be under U.S. and international tutelage. It will be occupied by over 30,000 U.S. troops to provide some security and ensure delivery of food to millions of Muslims in danger of death by starvation.

This U.S. military intervention, on the pretext of humanitarian aid for the hungry, will consolidate the U.S. military presence in a new strategic region and strengthen the U.S. military presence in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. The direct cause of this U.S. military intervention is the Arab and Islamic failure to solve the problems of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The Arab League, the Islamic states, and the Arab regional groupings such as the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity [OAU], could have put an end to the Somali tragedy, and they could have ensured delivery of food and medical aid, and could have provided military protection. These Arab, Islamic, and African states have the military, political, and financial resources to do that but they turned their backs on that political and human tragedy and let Somalia collapse as a state and its people die. They acted as if the matter did not concern them and as if Somalia was not a part of the Arab and Islamic nations.

That is why some American Jewish writers derive satisfaction from that Arab and Islamic failure. That is why Jewish author Steven Rosenfield asks what has Islam done about these catastrophes and why have the Islamic states left the Bosnian Muslims to face annihilation and starvation without extending the slightest aid? He adds that the Bosnian Muslims are second-class citizens and are not accepted in the Islamic world. Such is that author's effrontery to Islam and Islamic ideology. No wonder, because the Islamic governments these days do not care about the Muslims' interests, misery, and struggle for survival, be it in Bosnia or Somalia.

It is really an Arab and Islamic tragedy which began in Palestine early in the 20th century when the Arab and Muslim rulers left the people of Palestine to face the British occupation and the Zionist invasion alone. The result was the creation of the Zionist entity and the displacement of the Palestinian people, followed by four devastating wars which enlarged that entity at the expense of the Arab states. The matter reached a point where such Islamic states as Turkey and Iran entered into an alliance with the new Israeli state against the other Islamic and Arab states.

It was not strange, therefore, that the United States based its planning for the destructive Gulf war on Arab and Islamic differences and on the willingness of Arab and Muslim rulers to fight one another in cooperation with the United States to protect their regional interests. The condition of the Muslims in Somalia and Bosnia is therefore a result of all that and so is the action of the United States and its allies to put an end to the death, torture, and killing in these Islamic areas.

It is a return of Western imperialism against a background of Islamic and Arab differences and backwardness. It is a new Western direct military control of important and sensitive areas in the heart of the Islamic nation. It is a new proof of the Arab and Islamic governments' failure to solve the Islamic nation's problems through joint unified action.

So long as these governments continue on the road of conflict and collision, the new imperialism will continue to impose its will on the Arab and Islamic region and to control its fate under humanitarian pretexts. There will be other Somalias in new areas in the great big Arab and Islamic homeland.

Paper Says 'Welcome' to U.S. Marines in Somalia

PM0812141092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p11

[Article by "Palestinian writer" 'Awni Sadiq: "Welcome to the Marines in Somalia"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On 4 December the Security Council issued Resolution 794 approving the dispatch of UN forces under U.S. command on a military mission "to provide the protection necessary for the delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia." The scenario for the arrival of the Americans in Somalia was well-prepared. George Bush was not supposed to convince the world that "world peace" was in danger if the "Desert Storm" operation was not carried out. This time the world was required to convince George Bush of the need for U.S. agreement to undertake that important humanitarian mission in Somalia, and that is what happened.

The situation in Somalia was left to rot and deteriorate. Neither the Arab states nor the African states paid any attention to the situation. On 12 September Salim Ahmad Salim, secretary general of the OAU, admitted at a press conference in Harare that the organization was partially responsible for the tragedy in Somalia because it did not act quickly enough to tackle the crisis. The Arab League secretary general has made no such admission nor has the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] despite the fact that Somalia is a member of both. The victims of hurricane Andrew got more attention from the Arab and Islamic leaders and from some African leaders.

They wanted the "international community" to undertake the required mission and now the Marines are landing on the Somali coast, so welcome to the Marines. [passage omitted]

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Postpones Meeting After Indian Mosque Incident

BK0812171492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1642 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Dec 8 (AFP)—A South Asian summit set to begin this weekend has been postponed until next month as a result of the destruction of an ancient mosque in India, Foreign Minister R.L. Bhatia said here Tuesday.

Bhatia told AFP that a meeting of foreign ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) would however start as planned Wednesday in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told AFP by telephone in Dhaka that he had no comment to offer on Mr. Bhatia's announcement.

But in Colombo, a top aide to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa also said that the seven nation summit scheduled to start Saturday was "most likely" to be postponed until January.

New Delhi had said that Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was unable to attend the SAARC summit, Presidential secretary K. H. J. Wijayadasa said.

Wijayadasa said the SAARC charter precluded them from holding a summit without the physical presence of all heads of state or government. [passage omitted]

India's Bhatia said new January dates for the summit had not yet been decided.

He said he would leave for Dhaka on Wednesday despite violent anti-Hindu protests in Bangladesh against the razing of the 16th- century Babri mosque in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh state.

"How does it matter?," he asked of the protests.

"It was up to our hosts to decide," he said of the postponement of the summit of leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Civil servants meeting in Dhaka to formulate the agenda for the summit "must have thought a postponement is necessary, he said, but ruled out the possibility that India would be isolated in the regional grouping.

"We have taken full action. We have dismissed the (Hindu-revisionist) Uttar Pradesh government, we have arrested the culprits and have taken possession of the mosque site.

"We are a secular state and shall remain a secular state," Bhatia said. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Ministry Condemns Indian Mosque's Demolition

LD0912094292 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, 9 Dec (APS)—Algeria has condemned the extreme Hindu elements' destruction of Ayodhya mosque in "Uttar Pradesh," in India. The Religious Affairs Ministry issued a statement expressing regret and surprise at this atrocious aggression on one of God's houses, which has always been a place for unification, worship, and an invitation for fraternization and tolerance. The Ministry statement condemns this act, describing it as "a hideous criminal act and an audacity against Islam and Muslim sanctities that has led to the shedding of the blood of innocent people." The statement adds that the demolition of the mosque has left a great impact on the souls of the Algerian people, who are enthusiastic about their religion and keen on the sanctity of mosques and other places of worship. The statement says that Algeria, which took note of the central Indian government's position, hopes that the latter will deal with this issue with the required severity and end such infringements which contradict the spirit of tolerance.

Lamouri Assesses Visit to Egypt as 'Positive'

LD0812112792 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, Dec 8 (APS)—"The results of my visit to Egypt were positive and fruitful. We have found a total readiness in all fields", said minister of religious affairs, Sassi Lamouri, in an interview to the daily EL MOUDJAHID. The minister added that Algeria will host this year more than 50 university teachers. They will be entrusted with teaching in Islamic institutes. "The Algerian state is sovereign, it has the right to riposte to attempt on its sovereignty from whatever country or party", said Lamouri in an answer to a question on the so-called "Algerian Egyptian plan to struggle against fundamentalism" dealt with by the foreign press.

Moreover, the minister tackled the implementation of measures undertaken by the government to give back to the mosque its original vocation and make it far from any partisan struggles which sow hatred and division whithin the community of believers. In this context, he said that the ministry has started to get rid of the persons who acted as imams without being qualified and thus gave the bad example. He further said that the ministry has created this year two institutes for the training of specialized staff and Islamic religion precepts. Concerning the days of study on Imam Malek held recently here, the minister said that this action is aimed to inculcate the true precepts of Islam through its first followers, including Imam Malek who was born in the second century of the Hegirian era in al-Madinah and to recall the vocation of the mosque which is the one of knowledge and of the teaching of Koran and the Hadith.

Assemblies Dissolved in Anti-Terrorist Struggle

LD0812143692 Algiers APS in English 1140 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, Dec. 8 (APS)—About 180 popular communal assemblies and six regional assemblies elected under the banner of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have been dissolved since the beginning of December, a total made on the basis of information gathered by APS regional correspondents throughout the country.

The dissolution of these assemblies follows a series of measures announced by the head of government. By the end of November, during a meeting with (Walis) heads of provinces of the center of the country in the frame of the anti-terrorist struggle.

The instruction of the head of the government related to these measures indicate that "the assemblies whose links of allegiance with the dissolved party have not been cut, continue to abusively use the powers and means of their elective mandate by supplying the logistics likely to reinforce the subversive activities of this party becoming accomplices and sometimes guilty of terrorist acts.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) dissolved on March 4 controlled since the elections of June 1990, 853 communal assemblies out of 1,541 and 32 regional assemblies out of 48.

485 communal assemblies including 33 in the Wilaya of Algiers were dissolved between April 11 and 30 and replaced by executive delegations in conformity with the decree of 14 April 1992 on the dissolution of failing assemblies.

Out of the 485 dissolved communal assemblies, 450 were managed by the FIS, 28 by the FLN [National Liberation Front] and 7 by independents. A number of elected members of the FIS have been arrested during the "general strike" of June 1991 and accused of "participation and incitation to gatherings" and use of communal goods for partisan ends. The open obstruction to the state authority. The participation in troubles to public order and the use of patrimony of the collectivity to partisan ends" are the main charges against the dissolved communal assemblies.

The recent measure of dissolution of assemblies convinced of links with the former party of Abassi Madani and implicated in acts of destabilization does not seem to concern all the elected assemblies under the banner of the FIS. The head of government pointed out in fact that the dissolution happens when "the implication in any destabilization of the state is proved".

Thus the number of other assemblies to be dissolved is unknown but the operation continues. Moreover, measures of dissolution concern for the same reasons the "Islamic leagues of labour", [word indistinct] associations and commercial companies.

Egypt

Defense Minister on Main Threats to Security

NC0812132192 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1040 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has stressed that Egypt's national security is an inseparable part of pan-Arab security, which has imposed on Egypt a positive and effective role in resolving regional conflicts and playing an active role in inter-Arab relations and Arab relations with the outside world with the aim of achieving peace, stability, integration, and cooperation between the Arab countries.

The defense minister added that Egypt's position has caused regional security considerations to overlap and interact directly with its national security and compelled it to play an influential role in events. This has been reflected in its role in keeping and establishing peace in Yugoslavia, Angola, and Somalia.

In a speech last night to the seminar on Egyptian national security in the 1990s organized by the Political Research and Studies Center at Cairo University's College of Economics, delivered on his behalf by Staff Major General Muhsin al-Sillawi, director of the Armed Forces Crisis-Management Department, the defense minister said: Egyptian national security faces direct and indirect threats. The collapse of the Soviet Union poses dangers to and has negative consequences for Egypt's national security. The Soviet republics, "the new Commonwealth," have inherited the economic crisis and a large volume of conventional, non-conventional, and advanced conventional weapons. The danger is that these weapons might possibly be exploited as a way out of the economic crisis by marketing them abroad. This will increase the national imbalance in the region. The more dangerous aspect of this matter is the race by countries whose leaders seek to impose their control over the region, especially Iran and Israel.

The defense minister then referred to the regional changes and the grave post-Gulf war imbalance of power in the regionally and internationally sensitive Gulf region in light of Iran's ambition to impose its hegemony as the sole regional power at the expense of Iraq's retreat. He said: This also includes the obstacles facing the peace process, which keep the Arab-Israeli conflict a latent pit threatening the region's security and stability if the concerned parties do not overcome the wall of mistrust. In addition, there is the increased secessionist trend in the Horn of Africa; the deteriorating situation in all the countries of the region, which is threatening the security of the Red Sea; and finally the increasing activities of extremist groups and their resort to terrorism as the main tool in many regional countries. The more serious thing is that some ruling regimes in the area have adopted and backed these groups.

Tantawi went on to say: Threats to Egypt come from several directions. There is the northeastern direction. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel undoubtedly negates a direct threat from this direction. But despite our desire for the comprehensive peace process to succeed, stalling of the peace efforts represents for us a return to a direct threat in some circumstances. The most important of these circumstances is that Israel is the only [Middle East] country that has nuclear capability, it possesses chemical and biological weapons, and is endeavoring to maintain the gap of qualitative and quantitative superiority over the Arab countries in conventional weapons.

Speaking about the Iranian threat, the defense minister said: Iran is the biggest threat to Egypt because of its anti-Egyptian policies and measures and the sabotage activities that undermine peace and security in the region. Iran continues to adopt the policy of exporting the extremist revolutionary ideology through various means and planned strategies. It also is seeking to play a major role in the region's security arrangements and opposes any Egyptian role in this sphere. It also is strengthening its military by obtaining advanced conventional, nuclear, and chemical capabilities, obtaining deterrent "surface-to-surface" missiles, and by its recent attempt to deepen the differences between the Palestinian groups and the PLO in order to sabotage the ongoing peace talks.

Still speaking about the threats to Egyptian national security, the defense minister said: Southern Egypt now is witnessing tension and instability in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Hence we are bearing in mind some direct threats to our national security from that direction. The Sudanese side is escalating the situation in order to impose its control over the administrative region. The Sudanese leadership recently moved toward training and exporting some terrorist elements and backing their anti-Egyptian activities in coordination with Iran. We have reports that there are around 25 camps in Sudan to train terrorists. Several attempts to smuggle weapons from Sudan across our border were discovered. In addition to strengthening Iranian-Sudanese cooperation, the establishment of an advanced Iranian military base in Sudan's eastern area extends Iran's influence to the Red Sea and deep in this southern direction. We also do not ignore our vital interests in the Nile Valley. We are still monitoring the intentions of Nile Valley countries that want to affect our share of water in one way or another through agreements to set up new projects. We are aware of this danger and its seriousness because it touches on the core of our national security.

The defense minister added: Egypt's endeavor to establish a lasting peace has compelled it to develop a military force capable of fulfilling the needs of Egyptian and pan-Arab security, of supporting Arab and friendly countries at their request and under the Arab League umbrella, backing world peace, and supporting international legitimacy.

He went on to say: Against the phenomenon of extremism and terrorism, the Armed Forces are eager, as part of the nation, to protect the state's domestic cohesion and closely follows this situation. He noted that several positive steps have been taken within the Armed Forces as part of the policy of combating terrorism and exposing its extremist elements.

Sudanese Delegation Begins Visit in Cairo

NC0912101692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0832 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—A Sudanese delegation including Industry Minister Taj-al-Sirr 'Abd-al-Salam, Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, and Central Bank Governor Shaykh Sayyid Ahmad al-Shaykh arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit of several days.

The delegation was received at the airport by Minister Plenipotentiary 'Abd-al-Rahim Khayri and the members of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo.

AL-AKHBAR Editorial Denounces Sudanese Regime

NC0912095092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR contends that Egyptian-Sudanese have not been this bad since before Sudan's independence, in which Egypt played an unforgettable role.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR notes that Egypt has been, and still is, careful to protect its 35-year relationship with Khartoum. Egypt has ignored several things because it believes that the ties linking the two fraternal people are too strong and solid to be affected by momentary differences or conduct on the part of certain officials.

The paper continues that Egypt expected the successful coup that brought al-Bashir, under the logo of the salvation revolution, to honor its promises to rescue the Sudanese people from their problems. However, this has not been achieved because the "salvation revolution" is being transformed into a revolution bent on ruining relations with Egypt.

The editorial adds that Egypt has tried to ignore the al-Bashir government's shameful stand during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, hoping that the Khartoum ruler would return to his senses. However, the Sudanese regime continued its serious game with Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR warns the Sudanese people that they will be the losers because of al-Bashir's regime. It notes that this regime has turned the country into a branch for Tehran's rulers and for the institutions they are running to export their backward thought and terrorist schemes to Egypt. It concludes that the Khartoum ruler will be the first to be burned by the fire with which he is playing.

Official on IMF's 'Continued' Support

NC0612070392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2136 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development and cabinet affairs, has said that IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus pledged continued IMF support of Egypt's economic reform program. Camdessus expressed his satisfaction with the talks that an Egyptian delegation held with IMF officials on Egyptian economic reform, Dr. 'Ubayd said following his return to Cairo tonight from an eight-day tour that took him to London and Washington, where he held talks with IMF officials.

The talks with the IMF were characterized by full understanding and the coming stage of the agreement will be a most fruitful one, Dr. 'Ubayd said, adding that he will present a report to Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on his talks with IMF officials.

Minister, World Bank Official Discuss Projects

NC0812180592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, met today with Mr. Hooper, head of the World Bank's Egypt and Middle East Department [name and title as received], who is currently visiting Cairo.

They discussed several issues concerning projects financed by the bank in Egypt and the possibility of the bank financing certain projects listed in the Arab development plan. They reviewed measures implemented so far to restructure the public sector—business sector—and privatizing it in the future. The bank has earmarked for this purpose a $300-million loan, of which Egypt has obtained $150 million as a first installment.

A responsible source at the International Cooperation Ministry said Egypt has met all conditions needed to obtain the second installment amounting to $150 million. He added that the sum will be used in backing the reform plan concerning business sector companies.

Cleric Denounces Demolition of Indian Mosque

NC0812220202 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Al-Azhar has issued a statement denouncing the destruction of the Muslim mosque in India.

Al-Azhar's Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq issued a statement calling on the Islamic Conference Organization to take all necessary measures with the international organizations, especially those that advocate the protection of human rights, to cooperate with the aggrieved Muslims whose mosque has been violated. He also urges the Islamic countries to take a decisive stand on this painful incident and aggression against the Muslims' sanctities and to intervene with the Indian Government to support the Muslims in India and restore their mosque.

Interpol To Begin Tracking Down 'Terrorists'

NC0812173492 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Excerpts] Interpol will begin contacts with several states to track down the terrorists who were sentenced to either life imprisonment or death in the two al-Jihad Organization cases—the "assassination group" and "returnees from Afghanistan." These terrorists amassed machine guns and ammunition to carry out terrorist operations, assassinate high-ranking officials, and blow up important installations in Egypt.

Maj. Gen. Hilmi al-Fuqiy, assistant interior minister and director of public security, has stated that Egyptian Interpol will obtain copies of the military sentences issued yesterday to determine the charges leveled against the fugitive terrorists. In accordance with extradition treaties, the states in which these terrorists are present will be asked to extradite them to Egypt for their involvement in acts harmful to Egypt's interests, a crime punishable under the penal code. [passage omitted]

Security authorities believe the fugitive terrorists are present in several countries, including Lebanon, Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran.

Court Suspends Sentences on 'Terrorists'

NC0812211992 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1931 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Administrative Judiciary Court yesterday issued a ruling suspending the implementation of the president's decision to refer the two terrorist organizations' cases in Alexandria to the military court. The ruling included suspension of the consequences that arose from the presidential decision.

The Supreme Military Court issued its verdict on the two cases on 3 December. The court sentenced eight terrorists to death, issued jail terms to others, and acquitted the remaining defendants. As a result of the Administrative Judiciary Court's ruling, the sentences issued by the military court will be suspended until the matter is settled as to whether a military or an ordinary court should try the accused.

Defense attorney Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur filed suit No. 483/41 before the Administrative Judiciary Court contesting the president's decision No. 370/92 referring cases 23 and 24 to the military court. In his suit, Mandur called for the trial of the defendants before ordinary and not military courts, stressing that the presidential decision is unconstitutional. Dr. Mandur noted that the State Security Court is the only body entitled to determine the charges attributed to the defendants.

Cairo Police Arrest 258; Raids To Continue

NC0812200492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Al-Jizah, 8 Dec (MENA)—Forces from al-Jizah Security Department today arrested 88 extremists and 170 other individuals suspected of carrying out terrorist acts and armed robberies in al-Jizah's Imbabah neighborhood [in Greater Cairo]. The area has been a gathering center for extremists and terrorists who have carried out criminal and terrorists acts against citizens.

During raids against the dens of these individuals in al-Munirah al-Gharbiyah area, security forces seized antigovernment leaflets, metal chains, and swords that the extremists have been using in their crimes. Central Security Forces, Public Security personnel, and State Security undercover police participated in the raids.

Security forces also seized in the extremists' dens in Imbabah a quantity of videotapes on which some of the meetings of the extremists' leaders were recorded. The recordings included sermons by a group of extremist leaders, some of whom are currently in custody while others remain at large. The sermons were intended to incite the public and encourage citizens to assault the police and attack the regime under the guise of religion.

A security official at the Interior Ministry said that these campaigns will continue over the next two days until criminal hotbeds in Imbabah, al-Munirah al-Gharbiyah, al-'Umraniyah, and other al-Jizah neighborhoods are purged of the extremists who have used them as strongholds, believing that they could establish a state within a state.

The source added that security forces will eliminate all forms of violence, extremism, and terrorism in these areas. He said that these campaigns will be carried out in accordance with the law.

[Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic at 1930 GMT on 8 December carries a similar report on the arrests, adding that "14,000 officers and troops" from the "State Security, Public Security, Criminal Investigation Department, and Central Security" participated in the operation.]

Security Source Denies 200 Returnees Arrested

NC0812145492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—A responsible security source has denied an opposition newspaper report today that the security authorities have detained 200 Egyptian nationals who had come from Iraq across Jordan.

The source affirmed that the report is totally groundless.

Article Decries Country's Economic 'Subservience'

NC0812073292

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 2 October carries a 3,500-word article on pages 3 and 4 by Chief Editor 'Adil Husayn. The chief editor says that the "scenario" of Egypt's separate peace with Israel following the October 1973 war involved a "radical change of the Egyptian economic structure" that abandoned agriculture and industry in favor of dependence on "U.S. funds (better known as aid), the Suez Canal, oil, tourism, and remittances from Egyptian workers in the oil-producing states." He says this effectively linked Egyptian revenues with the wishes of foreign powers and made the Egyptian economic structure very fragile: "The Egyptian economy's sources of revenue hinge on Israel's pleasure. If Israel bellows and there are military skirmishes on the border, all these revenues and remittances will stop, beginning with 'aid,' of course, ending with tourism, and passing along the way with oil that international companies claim is only found in the very areas subject to devastation in the event of war. (note this point: Oil in Egypt is never discovered in the Western Desert!)"

Husayn continues: "This transformation of the Egyptian economic structure, designed to establish subservience and strengthen Israeli security, did not come about accidentally; it was imposed by the United States and international institutions (since 1975) as part of a plan to subdue and humiliate."

He adds that the Egyptian economy's focus on tourism occurred due to instructions from abroad, noting that the flow of tourists is controlled by foreign companies who get the lion's share of the business. He writes: "Increasing the flow of tourists requires a political decision by the Western countries, and the controlling companies act only in light of such decisions. This is what has happened in Egypt since the mid-1970's."

Husayn disputes the official claim that tourism benefits the country's economy and estimates that only 60 percent of the declared $3-billion income from tourism in 1991-92 was net income, the rest going to incidental expenses, including cars, hotel equipment, beverages, cigarettes, and the profits of the companies "controlling" the hotels. He says that tourism does not create many jobs, adding that even those working in the field are turned from producers into servants waiting for tips. He says: "Moreover, the flourishing of tourism—as it is currently understood—means more than this. It produces a network of procurers and adventurers. The larger and stronger such a network is, the greater the flourishing of the subservient tourism. I believe that we can see this with our eyes and touch it with our hands. In the heart of Cairo and other large cities we know the story of the Arab tourists with the furnished apartments and the prostitution rings. We know about the debauchery and gambling in the hotels, dance halls, and cabarets. In remote areas, there are nudist and semi-nudist colonies. All this is run and serviced by Egyptians, who are tested daily in their religion and daily fail the test! Revenue from prostitution and alcoholic beverages is indisputably forbidden by religion [haram]. A nation that premeditatedly depends on such unclean money for its material gain is a nation destined to perish. The nation as a whole rejects this fate. As individuals, they face an arduous test. Naturally, we do not ask that tourism be stopped; however, we demand that it be placed under Islamic law and custom. We welcome cultural tourism (which does not spoil the environment or threaten historical sites). We welcome tourism for medical treatment, conventions, and recreational tourism that is above suspicion. However, we totally reject the current type of tourism, which is controlled by people who consider religion and morals an outdated fashion."

He continues: "We do not totally reject tourist activity but certainly reject it in its current form and with the conditions and specifications which perpetuate subservience and moral dissolution. We are not urging that this devil's door be closed so that we may sit back and stop seeking to make a livelihood. We are demanding that efforts be focused on production and sources of revenue permitted by religion [halal]. In this case, revenue from tourism will decrease, but the loss can be compensated by increasing revenues from industry and agriculture with God's grace. Blessings will come."

Husayn concludes his article with a criticism of the government's preoccupation with developing tourism to a "bizarre and exaggerated degree" that involves cooperation between Egyptian and Israeli companies, saying: "While developing tourism activity (in its current form) brings about subservience to the foreigner, a basic aspect of this subservience is represented by the linkage between Egyptian and Israeli economies and by producing large social strata that make a living from this relationship and consequently become a succor to the enemy."

Mauritania

Opposition Denounces Early Elections as 'Ploy'

AB0812173492 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The Mauritanian opposition has just reacted to President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's decision to organize early municipal elections in 1993. In the view of Bah Amadou Alhassane, president of the Party for Liberty, Equality, and Justice, this is a ploy to divert attention from the serious problems facing Mauritanians.

[Begin Alhassane recording] The real problems include the currency devaluation, soaring prices, famine, and deaths from starvation. The real problem is that we are going through a phase of false democracy. The real problems also include the repatriation of nationals and investigations into deaths. The real problem is reinstating laid off workers; the real problem is ending the policies of exclusion and segregation; the real problem is instituting a national conference to discuss national problems. The real problem is that [words indistinct] a policy of decentralization, the suspension of that ordinance, the quest for a national harmony founded on a charter. Those are the real problems. But, in order to divert Mauritanians' attention from these real problems, there is now talk of elections, whereas the prerequisites laid down by the opposition have never been complied with. [end recording]

Sudan

UN Human Rights Resolution Called 'Unjust'

EA0812151092 Khartoum SUNA in French 0940 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA)—The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has described the resolution that was recently adopted by the Third Commission of the UN General Assembly on so-called human rights violations in Sudan as unjust, hasty, and tendentious.

In a communique issued in Khartoum on 7 December, the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that the resolution once again reflects the double standards policy exercised by certain world powers in keeping with the new world order and affirmed that these powers have the upper hand in the United Nations and could place the United Nations in the service of their special goals and aims.

Although the United Nations had adopted similar resolutions against certain countries, the resolution on human rights in Sudan was the first of its kind as it was (?adopted) by a state, the United States, in keeping with the decision made by its legislative organ, the communique emphasized.

Despite Sudan's intensive contacts with the UN Human Rights Commission to review the reports by its representatives who recently visited Sudan so that its resolution could be adopted in the light of these reports instead of referring to unfounded accusations issued by quarters hostile to Sudan, the United States was not prevented from continuing its plots against Sudan. This coincided with the tendentious information campaign against Sudan, the communique added.

Al-Turabi Comments

EA0812201292 Khartoum SUNA in English 1641 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA)—Secretary-general of the People's Arab and Islamic Congress Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi has described the draft resolution approved by the third committee of the UN General Assembly on [the] human rights situation in the Sudan as "biased and flagrant." Dr. al-Turabi, in a press statement to the AFP correspondent in Khartoum, said that the Western countries did not want the Sudan to adopt independent options; therefore they endeavour to isolate it from the international community. He said it is a good thing that the Western countries cancelled their assistance to Sudan because receiving of aid means political subordination to those countries.

Governor Rejects Allegations

EA0612130592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] al-Ubbayid, 5 December (SUNA)—An amount of 500 million Sudanese pounds has been allocated this year for supporting peace villages in Kordofan State, Kordofan State's wali [governor] Maj-Gen al-Sayyid al-Husayni said. Addressing the prayers at al-Ubbayid Mosque, Friday [4 December], Maj-Gen al-Husayni said the state would witness next Monday [7 December], a national celebration on beginning the production of the Sudanese oil which, he said, is considered as one of the most [important] achievements ensured under the revolution. Maj-Gen al-Husayni further tackled the revolution's constant calls on the outlaws to return home, saying that the said calls come from tolerance of the Islamic religion.

He also touched on the allegations circulated by some elements against the Sudan as regards the human rights, saying that those allegations lack evidence. Those elements, he said, kept away from facing the real human rights abuses in Bosnia-Hercegovina, adding that such abuses are internationally-plotted aiming at prevention of establishing an Islamic state in Europe.

He emphasized that the state's experiment of establishing villages for housing the returnees from the outlaws' movement had brought the solidarity and coexistence among the citizens of the united Sudan.

Military on Outlaws' Record

EA0612132092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 5 December (SUNA)—The official spokesman of the Armed Forces and chairman of the security and defence committee at the Transitional National Assembly (TNA), Maj-Gen Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, has said that crimes of the outlaws [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] movement, as regards "attacking the civil targets and setting obstacles to relief efforts", indicate that the movement's reality had been uncovered to the whole world. In a statement to SUNA, Maj-Gen Uwaydah called for the international condemnation to the outlaws' movement for targetting foreign organizations which were extending relief aid to the movement itself.

Hindering of the domestic and the world relief aids efforts has got its dimensions, mainly aiming the southern Sudan's citizens, Maj-Gen Uwaydah said. He further pointed out that behaviour practised by the outlaws movement in killing the relief workers and foreign pressmen contradict the Sudanese values and traditions. Such practices identify the outlaws' movement's humiliation to the human rights, Maj-Gen Uwaydah said, stressing that crimes of the outlaws' movement had extended to the extent of downing relief plans, slavering small children and recruiting them for war.

Maj-Gen Uwaydah said some international bodies had accused the outlaws of violating the international law, pointing in this respect to acknowledgement of the Africa watch organization and condemnation to Garang movement by the U.N. representative for humanitarian affairs who visited Sudan recently.

'Over' 10,000 Iranian Soldiers Said Aiding Regime

NC0812160092 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Dec 92 pp 1,2

[Excerpt] Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo have stated that the ruling regime in Sudan asked for more aid from the Iranian regime last week to confront foreign threats and the continuous activity of the opposition within the Sudanese Army.

Majok Ayon [name as published], representative of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan in Cairo, said that Tehran asked Khartoum not to be scared of the ferocious campaign against Sudan. Iran stressed its full solidarity with the Sudanese regime and its readiness to protect it.

Ayon noted that Khartoum recently received huge quantities of oil, funds, and weapons from Iran to help the Sudanese regime face the Arab and international isolation imposed on it.

Ayon warned against new Iranian-Sudanese attempts to stir up unrest and instability in Egypt and the Arab states. He said that the Sudanese opposition has reliable information indicating that over 10,000 Iranian soldiers and military experts are present in Sudan. They are said to be participating in the war in the south, training Arab extremists, and protecting the Islamic Front's regime. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Interviewed on IMF Relations

AB0812212092 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 8 (AFP)—Sudan now enjoys "good, almost normal relations" with the International Monetary Fund, but total normalization depends on "political criteria" put forth by countries providing aid, Sudanese finance and planning minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi said on Tuesday.

In an interview with AFP, the minister stressed that, despite a "declaration of non-cooperation" dating back to September 1990 emanating from the IMF, the international financial agency "has actually been cooperating with Sudan" since implementation in mid- 1990 of a strict program of economic liberalization and recovery.

The minister said that the IMF experts "check on our program of economic reforms in an informal fashion . . . and have again authorized technical assistance. IMF delegations follow each other into Khartoum".

He said that "our problem with the IMF is linked with our high debt to it. We have to find a way to repay it, and only then can the declaration of non-cooperation, the last stage before exclusion, be lifted".

Sudan's foreign debt, a large part of which dates back to the 1970 but has never been repaid, was estimated at the end of last year at more than 15 billion dollars, 17 percent of that owed to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

That debt is out of all proportion to the country's productive capacity, and a Western economic source estimated that that debt is equivalent to 33 years of current receipts, and debt service alone would be equal to three years of current receipts.

Hamdi said that last August, the IMF got donor countries to contemplate the possibility of resuming assistance to Sudan, which was mostly suspended at the time of the coup d'etat in June 1989.

The agency has asked the Sudanese government to make an additional budget effort, particularly by cutting military spending, and for a resumption of payments to the Fund to "prevent an increase in arrears".

The minister said that "The IMF is thinking of calling a meeting of donor countries at the start of 1993. If the donors approve our progress, we will be able next July to sign the documents connected with the new budget, and the donors will pay off our IMF debt. That would enable us to receive new aid from the Fund in two or three years".

But he added that "There are a few complications, because the donors are going to decide on the basis of political criteria". In particular, Western countries criticize Sudan for its Islamist orientation and accuse it of human rights violations.

"On the economic level", the minister added, "everybody is satisfied with what we have done, which is more than enough, particularly since we have done it without any foreign financial assistance".

He deplored the fact that "It is strictly political factors that will determine, or largely influence, the course of events and our relationship with the IMF in future. We're doing our best, and the international community must acknowledge this fact and consider us more objectively".

He denied that there was any dissension within the leadership concerning economic austerity. "My policy is supported by the whole government. It's no one-man show", he commented.

Al-Bashir Inaugurates Oil Field, Refinery

EA0812120892 Khartoum SUNA in English 1619 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Abu Jabrah, 7 Dec (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir inaugurated Monday [the] Abu Jabrah oil field and refinery. The inauguration ceremony marked commencement of commercial oil utilisation of Sudanese oil.

At the oil field, Gen al-Bashir was briefed by engineers on the stages of oil production relying on the pure Sudanese experience at the petroleum sphere. Production of Sudanese of oil will contribute to expansion in establishing future projects. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Oil Company Said Not Seeking U.S. Financing

LD0812183592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 7 December (KUNA)—A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation [KPC] said today that two of its officials were invited to visit the United States to acquaint themselves with the new credit system, its operation, period, and guarantees, but matters have not yet reached the stage of negotiations to secure financing for the projects of the oil sector in the coming stage.

The source told KUNA that there was an offer to acquaint these officials with the workings of the system, but matters have not yet reached the stage of negotiations.

The source was commenting on a report published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS yesterday, which said that a delegation of financial leaderships in the four Kuwaiti oil companies led by the KPC will today begin negotiations in Washington and New York to seek financing for these projects.

New Military Service Conscription Announced

LD0512101592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 December, KUNA—An official at the Directorate of Conscription and General Mobilization of the Kuwaiti Army today announced that two batches of conscripts were going to be called up for compulsory national service, adding that the military authorities intended to examine the law on compulsory national service to make it compatible with the major challenges Kuwait was facing.

In an interview with KUNA, the head of the Directorate of Conscription and General Mobilization, Staff Colonel Tawfiq Salim al-Abd al-Razzaq, said that the first batch of conscripts who will be called up in January are the university graduates born in the years between 1958 and the end of December 1963 and the non-university graduates born in the years between 1963 and end of December 1969 who have not been exempted from the national service.

He added that the second batch of conscripts would be made up of university graduates born up until 1963 and non-university graduates born up until 1970. [passage omitted]

The colonel also said that those who did not join up before reaching the age limit for national service would be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

In reply to a question by KUNA on whether the period spent by those eligible for national service in the Desert Storm operations would be counted as part of the national service or not, Staff Col. al-Abd al-Razzaq said that the period between 2 August 1990 and 17 June 1991 had indeed been counted as being part of the national service for those who took part in the Desert Storm operations and who had been conscripted before 2 August 1990. He added that as regards those who had not been conscripted before that date, the military authorities had no intention of deducting the period in which they volunteered for any military service. [passage omitted]

He further said that plans had been drawn up to train the conscripts as combat units in order to provide a high standard of combat training and effectively benefit from formations of the various regular forces. [passage omitted]

Trade Ministry Bans Goods 'Harming' Islam

LD0812223392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Dec, KUNA—The Ministry of Trade and Industry today prohibited the import and display of goods bearing expressions harming the Islamic religion, infringing public good manners, and contravening public order. A decree issued by Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah al-Hajiri, says that the import, distribution, manufacturing, or marketing is prohibited of any goods or products with words written or printed on them such as the name of Almighty God, Koranic verses, sayings of the prophet, law-related expressions or pictures of the holy places if using them is likely to mean contempt or mockery or disdain towards the Islamic religion, or if they infringe on public good manners or contravene public order.

The decree, which will be published in the official gazette, says that legal measures will be taken against anyone contravening this decree.

*Issue of Hijab for Women Heats Up

93AE0153A Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Nov 92 p 16

[Article by Khawlah al-Qazwini: "They Have Deceived You, Telling You It Is Hijab"]

[Text] It seems that international fashion houses have become amazingly innovative in designing the latest fashions for veiled women. Our women and daughters have rushed panting behind this false dream and have embodied the image of the wavering woman who is attracted to Islam one time and to Christianity another.

I have found it appropriate to shed light on this phenomenon, which has spread in our society like fire in dry grass.

At a time when the elements hostile to Islam seek to launch a major war against our societies and to sneak corrupt ideas and destructive concepts deep into the souls by various means, hordes of recruited agents loyal to these elements work to facilitate the task of intellectual and psychological control over Muslims. The main objective is to shake the faith so that awareness will be undermined, ideas will be confused, and clear vision will be lost. Gradually, the veil has become the sensitive inlet to controlling the tendencies of the Muslim woman who is always looking for what is pretty. This invisible demon has not been able to come out openly and remove the woman's veil or to fight women. It has not even invited women to shed the veil. Such a direct approach belongs to the past.

A woman's veil means her spiritual chastity and personal purity, embodied in religious clothing that conceals her charms from men's eyes, thus turning sick souls back to their holes, spurned and defeated.

Women's chastity means society's piety and the protection of society from moral corruption and psychological troubles. Thus, when society turns into a society armed with the virtues of chastity and purity, its instincts become calm and subside, and it devotes itself intellectually to thought, creativity, work, and development.

So this is a point that moves toward numerous inlets, all of which ultimately serve society's interest. It has been difficult for all of our Muslim women to let go of the veil and to allow some changes to enter through small gaps. Initially, the changes came in the form of clothes that were supposed to be loose so they would not show the body's outline. But gradually, France, the country of style and fashion, exported the French maxi [skirt], tight suits that cling to the body, and tight waists. It was nothing but a trick. Under the slogan of the fashionable and modern veiled woman who pursues the latest fashion, our women gradually cast off their robes and then tightened and shortened their clothes, thus showing more of their body.

Did matters end at this limit?

No, the headcovering and the way it should be arranged to cover the hair and not show more than the round part of the face became the subject matter of misguided development.

Now we find that this headcovering, which has come to us from infidel countries that are hostile to Islam and that scheme to destroy it, is being exported to Muslim women under various trademarks, and we find that these misguided Muslim women chase the mirage and buy many of these covers in various bright colors that attract attention. These women slide the cover back to let some of their locks flow over their foreheads in a manner that allows men to guess the color and shape of their hair. Thus, it is the same if this cover is or is not used.

Some women wrap this cover around their heads and their necks in an innovative ways, deluding themselves and others into believing that it is a legal religious veil, while it is in fact no more than a pretty mask and one more way to charm men.

Cosmetics are the kind of embellishments that make pretty women even prettier. We may find women who wear Islamic dress and then heap powders on their faces to highlight their beauty if their bodies are not pretty enough to help. Here, women fall into the trap of duality, contradiction, and delusion. The veil's objective is to conceal women's beauty from the eyes of men, whereas the internal psychological desire of these women is to highlight their beauty while maintaining some sort of a veil! This is, in fact, a contradiction between thought and behavior.

Sister, fashion and cosmetics kings are the main beneficiaries of your naivete and your blind goodness. Listen to this fact from the book "A Message to Eve," by Muhammad Rashid al-'Uwayd. In part three, page 29, the book says: "In 1969, a cosmetics king was strolling with a friend at a zoo. The friend saw a monkey with rings of green, gray, and brown around his neck. The man pointed at the monkey and started laughing. The cosmetics king turned to him and said: 'What would you say if we made women look like this in 1970?' The friend responded: 'Impossible. What woman would accept such a funny look?' The cosmetics king answered: 'I can make women chase after this look.' The two men then made a bet.

"This was followed by promotional campaigns in all of the women's magazines, on radio, and on television. Before 1970 ended, women were wearing the rainbow colors around their eyes. The cosmetics king won the bet, and the news was reported by some magazine."

So do not let these devils deprive you of your sanity. Most fashion, style, and cosmetics houses are financed by Jewish capitalists who have found convenient consumer markets in our countries.

A return to the genuine Islamic dress is one means to resist this corrupt tendency. Whoever uses clothing to make herself pretty deceives herself before she deceives God and people. Religious dress dictates to the Muslim woman morals and ethics that emanate from the venerable Koran. It is sad to see how some women act in some ministries, in the streets, in markets, and in workplaces. They joke and flirt with men and act in a way that motivates men to accost them. They also embark on illegitimate and unchaste relations that are totally void of all modesty and shame.

So where is the genuine veil?

Women share everything with men now, forgetting that there is a religious barrier that they should not go beyond. A colleague at work has no right to surpass religious and ethical bounds. There are specific and brief rules to which women must stick. If family supervision is far, then God's eye, may God be praised and exalted, is close.

Women in our society have discarded the psychological veil and the chastity with which they protect themselves and their society. Consequently, vices and illicit relations have, regrettably, spread, even among married men and women. Matters have reached the extent that people are entering deep into such relations and violating God's restrictions, may God be praised.

Women's responsibility comes before men's because women cast the bait to encourage men to flirt and approach them. When a man finds that a woman is fortified by chastity, he refrains from approaching her, even if she is a model of beauty.

Women emerge from their homes perfumed, adorned, and dolled up, and they joke with their male colleagues at work. Their eyes meet others' without any deterrence. The concept of turning one's eyes away out of modesty is not there to motivate women to shun such shameless conduct. The matter goes beyond comradeship, and women sink into the mud of sin, dragging the traces of misery, grief, and worry behind them.

Why all this laxity that is totally unrelated to human civilization? Isn't this tantamount to the spread of alien modes of conduct that we have imported, along with clothes, to our society to live with us and to become a part of our life?

Men's silence and the weakening solicitude for women, be they sisters, daughters, or wives, has allowed women to proceed into the broad arena of life with faltering steps, not realizing the dangers that are engulfing them.

We beg Muslim women to regain their sense and reason and to abandon this adornment that is wrapped up in clothing of false modesty before their lives are over and they have nothing to show for themselves.

Oman

Article Views Efforts in Somalia

PM0812170692 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 7

[Unattributed article: "What Are the Aims and Limits of the International Forces' Presence in Somalia?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Then Washington developed its military intervention idea by proposing to the Security Council its willingness to send some 30,000-40,000 U.S. troops, provided that the operation is similar in nature to the operation of the coalition led by the United States in the Gulf in 1990. This interest was consolidated after Japan decided to offer $12.3 million to finance relief efforts.

Without doubt an international operation on such a scale will have a positive impact at the level of saving the Somali people. In other words, the role of international legitimacy within which action was based during the Gulf crisis in 1990 should be repeated in similar cases without any discrimination. And the crisis in Somalia desperately needs to benefit from this legitimacy to save the lives of citizens, whose only hope now is to remain alive.

Thus the United States found itself more interested in the matter, especially as it was the United States which prepared the world for action of this kind when it played the main role in the operation to liberate Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Without doubt securing relief operations with such a large number of international troops is a positive action. But there are those who point to the possibility that international relief workers could be exposed to some dangers. A spokesman for the relief organization "Care" said: We are concerned, because these forces' deployment could lead to increasing security risks." [passage omitted]

The aims behind the dispatch of international forces to the region should be understood. In principle, the international forces do not wish to get involved in a civil conflict, because that is surrounded by dangers. Besides, any effort to settle the crisis by exploiting the international military presence could cause any achieved peace to be blemished by compulsion, and thus no settlement of that kind would succeed.

So it can be said that the international forces will work within the framework of their main task, that is to protect supplies and guarantee their delivery to the needy.

Qatar

Amir Supports UN Resolution on Somalia

JN0812115092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 8 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has affirmed that the security and stability of the Gulf region is indivisible and that cohesion and solidarity among its peoples is an undeniable historical fact.

In a speech marking the inauguration of the 21st term of the Advisory Council this morning, the Qatari amir added that the State of Qatar has constantly endeavored to strengthen solidarity among the Gulf states and enhance fraternal ties in the interest of all parties.

As regards the fateful Arab issues, the Qatari amir said that the Middle East peace process has witnessed several rounds of peace negotiations among the parties concerned—negotiations that have thus failed to make any worth-noting progress with respect to the basic issues due to Israeli intransigence. He expressed the hope that these negotiations will experience a strong push after the new U.S. Administration takes over its executive powers.

His highness the amir affirmed the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; the principle of trading land for peace; and the Palestinian people's exercise of their right to self-determination on their national soil.

With respect to the position of the State of Qatar toward the situation in Somalia, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani said: "Our famine-stricken Arab people in Somalia are experiencing the harshest possible ordeal. While welcoming the UN Security Council resolution sanctioning military intervention in Somalia, we urge the warring Somali factions to allow the national interest to take precedence over their ambitions and selfish interests by putting an end to the civil war and convening a peace conference to save their country and compatriots."

Regarding the position of the State of Qatar on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims are the target of a barbarous aggression by Serbian troops and where international measures have thus far failed to end this tragedy, his highness said in his speech before the Advisory Council: "We support the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conference Organization. We also deem necessary the setting up of a timetable to implement the UN Security Council resolutions passed in this regard."

Elaborating, his highness the amir said: "We support the measures proposed to reflect firmer action on the part of the United Nations, including military intervention. It is hoped that the resolutions recently passed by the Security Council with regard to Somalia will pave the way for the adoption of similar resolutions on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina—resolutions that would alleviate the people's suffering and allow them to defend themselves by way of removing the arms ban imposed on them in implementation of the UN Charter, which guarantees all states the legitimate right of self-defense."

Saudi Arabia

Government Expresses 'Strong Regrets' Over Mosque

LD0712210892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1652 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 7 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a session of the Council of Ministers on Monday afternoon, 13 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 Hegira [7 December] at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir stated: The council reviewed the summary of the political and security reports in connection with the most important developments at the Arab and international levels. The council expressed its optimism concerning the efforts exerted for the salvation of the Somali people from the claws of famine, disease, and destruction by weapons.

The council of ministers also expressed its strong regrets and disapproval of the events in Uttar Pradesh in India in connection with the aggression that led to the destruction of the Babri Mosque, and called upon the Indian Government to intervene urgently to stop these acts that hurt the feelings of Muslims all over the world. [passage omitted]

Visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Meets With King

LD0612201192 Riyadh SPA in English 1950 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, Dec 6, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received at his office here on Sunday Rafik al-Hariri, the prime minister of Lebanon.

The royal audience was attended by 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the minister of information who told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) afterwards that talks dealt with matters concerning Lebanese affairs in the framework of the constant concern being given by the Saudi monarch on these issues.

Al-Hariri Optimistic About Talks

NC0812092992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Citing sources close to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who is visiting Saudi Arabia, AFP has reported that he and these sources are optimistic about the outcome of his talks there. They also say that this visit will have positive results regarding political and economic backing for Lebanon after al-Hariri explained to Saudi King Fahd the steps taken to achieve stability in all spheres.

Still citing sources close to al-Hariri, AFP said that Saudi Arabia has good relations with the United States and thus can help politically by convincing Washington to help the Lebanese regime achieve political stability by pressuring Israel to ease the situation in south Lebanon in preparation for its withdrawal from the part it is occupying.

At the economic level, the agency said Saudi Arabia already has given humanitarian and economic aid and will help the Lebanese Government's plans to revive the Lebanese economy, particularly as the private Saudi sector is showing an interest in getting involved in huge investment operations. Unofficial figures indicate that Saudi investors are ready to invest around $550 million in Lebanon's investment projects, especially the project to rebuild the center of Beirut. An informed source said the Saudi private sector's interest in Lebanon is in response to the Saudi Government's instructions.

AFP cited a Saudi banking source as saying that a number of Saudi banks have expressed their willingness to participate in funding any financial loan for Lebanon.

Praises Saudi Support for Lebanon

LD0812211792 Riyadh SPA in English 1953 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, Dec 8, SPA—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri highlighted today the existing historical relations between the Kingdom and Lebanon and praised the support extended by the Kingdom to his country.

Al-Hariri pointed out that he had briefed the monarch on the efforts exerted by the Lebanese government to liberate South Lebanon from the yoke of the Israeli occupation as well as the arrangements taken for the reconstruction of the country.

I have also briefed the monarch on the arrangements that would be taken to ensure the pillars of peace and security in the country, he said noting that Taif agreement had paved the way for the settlement of the Lebanese problem.

On behalf of the Lebanese government I have requested the monarch to help in mobilization of the international community for the implementation of the Resolution 425, issued by the Security Council, which stipulates the withdrawal of Israel from South Lebanon, he added.

The Saudi monarch has pledged to exert efforts at the international forums to support our cause and help the Lebanese government in the implementation of its economic development plan, he noted.

Moreover, al-Hariri said he had conveyed to King Fahd the appreciation of Lebanese President Elias Hirawi and speaker of the Lebanese Council of Deputies Nabih Barre for the attention given by him to the Lebanese cause.

For his part the Saudi monarch has asked me to convey his greetings to the Lebanese president and the speaker of the Lebanese Council of Deputies, said al-Hariri.

United Arab Emirates

President Urges International Operation for Bosnia

JN0712202392 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1835 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 7 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has urged the international community to use force, carry out an immediate and decisive move, and to adopt measures to save the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina similar to those that have been agreed upon with respect to Somalia.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY [WAM], his highness affirmed that the international and humanitarian efforts in Somalia, saving people there from starvation, and ending their ordeal are appreciable and thankful efforts. His highness indicated that the UAE has been following the Somalia crisis with great concern since its beginnings, and has always expressed readiness to extend the hand of assistance to the brothers in Somalia.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan said that this positive move necessitates that the international community move with the same will and resolve to end the ordeal of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is because if the bloody tragedy in Bosnia is left where it is, and "if we are satisfied with what the international forces are doing in terms of merely supervising the delivery of humanitarian aid and living necessity shipments to the Bosnian people without doing anything to safeguard them against the slaughter they are being subjected to and deterring the aggressors, this tragedy will not end. More seriously, this will encourage others with territorial ambitions to seek the realization of their ambitions in terms of committing aggression and usurping others' rights without any deterrence or objection."

His highness added that force must be used in Bosnia-Hercegovina to deter the wrong-doer and to put an end to the actions of destruction, killing, and bloodshed. He said: "This cannot be achieved without sending in multinational forces, with particular participation by Arab and Islamic states, which have the capabilities to join such forces."

His Highness was confident that such a proposal will be accepted by most states that renounce aggression and do not accept that others' property by attacked. He said: "Therefore, force must be used to stop the destruction so that the United Nations and the Security Council would maintain their weight and prestige among states and peoples. This proposal will only be rejected by states that entertain aggressive intentions and ambitions, seek to rob and loot others' rights and to shed the blood of innocent people, and believe that salvation is a desperate case." [passage omitted]

Parliament To Be Revived After 1 Year Recess

NC0712125292 Paris AFP in English 1151 GMT 7 Dec 92

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 7 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is to revive its appointed parliament after more than a year of recess caused by a delay in naming members, official sources said Monday.

The sources confirmed a report by AL-KHALIJ newspaper that President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan would issue a decree in the next few days re-forming and convening the Federal National Council (FNC).

The FNC, comprising mainly dignitaries and wealthy businessmen, has a limited say in decision-making in the

UAE, with its powers confined to issuing recommendations on the government foreign and domestic policies.

The revived 40-member council will have 27 new members but excludes speaker Hilal Ahmad Lutah of Dubai. The sources said a new speaker and his first and second deputies would be elected by members in the next session.

The FNC, formed by appointment rather than election, is drawn proportionally from each of the seven emirates making up the UAE, which was established a year after the seven gained independence from Britain in 1971.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the largest and richest emirates, have eight members each, al-Shariqah and Ra's Al-Khaymah have six members each while the remaining members are drawn equally from 'Ajman, al-Fujayrah and Umm Al-Qaywain.

"The council was supposed to convene in November last year but it was postponed because the new appointments remained incomplete," AL-KHALIJ said.

"The presidential decree comes after Abu Dhabi completed naming of its representatives in the council."

The FNC was created with the federation, making the UAE the second Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country to introduce a parliamentary system after Kuwait.

There have been calls for giving the council greater powers and choosing its members through election.

"The council is an instrument for nationals to monitor the political system but its powers and the way its members are selected fall short of our aspirations," Hadif Al-'Uways, law professor at the Emirates University, said last week.

"We call for activating this council and revising its formation as a prelude to moving the people towards a full democratic and parliamentary system," he added at a symposium at the university.

In a similar call, the UAE students union said in a statement after the symposium:" We urge authorities to support the FNC and give it a real legislative authority so it will become a true representative of the people's will and to give citizens a chance to elect its members directly."

Abu Dhabi, which holds 90 percent of the UAE's oil, has its own consultative body but its members are mostly wealthy citizens who are named by the ruler and its powers are restricted to advising on the domestic policy.

Although it was set up more than two decades ago, the UAE is still run by an interim constitution, which is extended every five years by the rulers of the seven emirates who form the supreme federal council.

Official sources said many of the new FNC members were young and educated in a bid to enhance its role in domestic affairs.

"The council has been injected with new blood and hopefully it will play a greater role," one source said.

UK's Douglas Hogg Holds News Conference

JN0912101292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Dec (WAKH)—Douglas Hogg, British minister for foreign and commonwealth affairs, has stressed that the Gulf States alone are, through coordination among themselves, responsible for maintaining stability and security.

At a news conference in Abu Dhabi today, Hogg said that the Gulf region's security is the direct responsibility of its states thanks to mutual coordination and joint cooperation among them, the gradual development of their national capabilities, and the modernization of their training and armament.

He said that Iraq should implement all UN resolutions on the Gulf crisis, including the release of all Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees.

The British minister expressed optimism over the future of the Arab-Israeli talks to achieve the aspired peace in the Middle East.

Military Officials Receive Russian Air Force Commander

JN0612112992 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Chief of Staff Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi received in his office at the General Command headquarters this morning General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Air Force, and his accompanying delegation.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with topics of joint interest between the two sides.

Staff Brigadier General Rashid Mubarak al-Rayyami, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, also received General Petr Deynekin in his office at the General Command headquarters this morning.

The two meetings were attended by a number of Armed Forces and Air Force commanders, and Russian Ambassador Oleg Derkovskiy.

Government Said Ready To Reveal Nuclear Suppliers

NC0812192192 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, Dec 8 (AFP)—Iraq is ready to "begin discussions" with U.N. experts on its nuclear suppliers, Maurizio Zifferero, who heads the U.N.'s latest nuclear inspections team, said here Tuesday on return from a trip to Baghdad.

"I got encouraging news of the possibility finally of obtaining information about the procurements," Zifferero said of Iraq's purchases of nuclear technology, adding that it was "a step forward."

Iraqi Higher Education and Scientific Research Minister Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur informed Zifferero of the government's decision on Monday, he said.

"The Iraqis were ready to open the discussion yesterday night but I don't want to rush," Zifferero said. "I prefer to prepare the documents specifying our requests."

Under U.N. resolutions following the Gulf war, Iraq is obliged to provide data on its nuclear technology but Baghdad has to date refused to identify its suppliers.

The nuclear inspections team leader said that he would probably fax the documents to his Iraqi interlocutors in the coming days.

"They (Iraqis) have decided this is in their interest. This is a step in the right direction," he said.

On Monday, the head of a U.N. chemical and biological weapons team said disarmament talks with the Iraqi authorities should be held at a "higher level" to ensure progress and eliminate technical ambiguities.

Sweden's Johan Santesson told reporters: "The level of representation on the Iraqi side has been remarkably low in comparison with the levels in previous missions."

He was among 36 United Nations inspectors who began Sunday a new mission aimed at eliminating Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

The mission is aimed at inspecting several sites to identify Baghdad's foreign-made weapons and includes an eight-member nuclear team.

The nuclear team is also looking for Iraq's formal compliance with Security Council Resolutions 707 and 715 to establish a regime for long-term monitoring of Iraqi weapons acquisitions.

Further on 'Mother of Battles River' Project

JN0812103492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions to reclaim the desert areas and halt desertification between al-Nasiriyah and al-Basrah, through the execution of the Mother of Battles River project, the engineer personnel of the Military Industrialization Organization and its affiliates have started digging the course of the river. The execution of the river project is being supervised by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, presidential adviser and higher supervisor of the project. The river will be 120-km long, running from Dhi Qar Governorate to al-Basrah Governorate. Tributaries, with a total length of 70 km, will extend from the river.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that subordinate departments from the companies affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction have also begun work on digging the river's channel within the areas assigned them.

Rebel Radio Reports Antiregime Operations, Deaths

NC0712182092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In retaliation for the terrorist acts of dictator Saddam Husayn's forces and security authorities against the Iraqi people in the southern marshlands, last week the Islamic revolution mujahidin attacked the 1st Brigade's 1st Regiment in [break in reception] al-Dawwarah in al-Maymunah District. Our sources confirm that a large number of officers and soldiers were killed and wounded and a large number of the regiment's bunkers, weapons, and vehicles were destroyed in the attack. The unit returned safely to base.

In another development, armed popular forces attacked a platoon-strong regime on the outskirts of al-Kahla', al-'Amarah Governorate. According to our sources, the regime's bunkers and cabins were set on fire, a warrant officer and three non-commissioned officers were killed, and a vehicle type (Eva) was destroyed.

Saddam Chairs Joint RCC-Ba'th Party Meeting 8 Dec

JN0812200192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office.

* Visitors Describe Meetings With Saddam Husayn

93AE0163A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 11 Nov 92 pp 38-40

[Article: "Amidst Atmosphere of Terror and Alert, Three Arab Officials Say: This Is How Saddam Husayn Lives"]

[Text] London—"A blow that will not eliminate him personally will only strengthen him and bolster his influence." Those who express this opinion proceed on the basis that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will continue to cling to power even if the entire country is laid to waste; rather, even if the Iraqi people are annihilated and if nobody other than Saddam and his private guards, who are his kinsmen and cousins, survive.

Because Saddam is aware of this fact and knows that the Americans have targeted him personally since they realized that general pressure on Iraq and the Iraqi people will not make him resign or step aside, his personal survival has become his main preoccupation and sole concern. Now, he moves within a closed circle; he does not sleep two successive nights in the same place, and he does not let even his closest associates know the direction of his next move.

According to what has been reported by some people who are connected with the centers of influence in Iraq, the Iraqi president has not used the phone since the Kuwait occupation crisis for fear that his place of residence might be under surveillance by U.S. monitoring equipment and satellites and that a raid will be mounted to get rid of him with a sudden air strike.

To paint a picture of the state of fear under which the Iraqi president lives and of his constant fear of being killed or assassinated either by direct attack or by a surprise air raid, we will cite in the following three cases in which some Arab officials met with Saddam Husayn in various places during the past year.

First Case

This Arab official, who stressed that we must not mention his name or his country's name, said: "I arrived in Baghdad via Jordan at a late hour. Because I was extremely exhausted, I immediately went to sleep in a room reserved at a first-class hotel. Upon handing over my diplomatic passport to the receptionist, I let him know that I was on an official mission, but without disclosing any details.

"At about 0800," the Arab official continued, "I woke up to the telephone ringing in my room. When I lifted the receiver, the voice on the other end said: 'Welcome, Mr. ..., and God be thanked for your safe arrival. I will drop in on you at your room in half an hour, and I will discuss with you the details of the issue that you have come to discuss.'"

The Arab official added: "I was stunned. I had arrived in Baghdad at a late hour, and I had not told anybody at the border or at the hotel that I had come to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, even though I had informed the Iraqi ambassador to my country of the matter. In his own way, the ambassador took part in making the arrangements for this trip, including discussing some details with Nuri al-Ways, Iraq's ambassador to Jordan.

"Immediately after the call, I quickly rose from bed and rushed to the bathroom to shave. I put on my clothes in a hurry, adjusting them purposefully, and sprayed more than the usual amount of aftershave on my face, believing that I was going to meet 'his excellency the president' within one hour at the most. Precisely half an hour later, somebody knocked at my door. When I opened the door, I saw in front of me a neatly dressed young man who hastened to say to me: 'We welcome you to our country. You can have your breakfast and lunch here at the hotel. We will visit you in the evening for the purpose for which you have come.' This young man did not ask me for any details about my mission, and nobody mentioned Saddam Husayn's name. But the young man did ask me not to use the telephone at all and not to tell anybody, not even high-ranking Iraqi officials, anything about the mission for which I had come to Iraq.

"This young man disappeared after this encounter, which lasted no more than five minutes. I, on my part, stayed in my room. I ate my breakfast and my lunch in the room. When I opened my door to the restaurant waiter, I noticed the presence of a well-dressed young man sitting on a chair in front of the room. He carried no weapon in his hand. I realized then that he was there either to guard or to watch, or both.

"Time passed slowly, and any waiting is extremely painful. Having been placed in this atmosphere, I was careful not to look out of the window. I was also eager to act cautiously and properly and not to arouse any suspicion out of a sense of responsibility and because of the earnest nature of my mission.

"Around 1800, I jumped out of my bed when I heard somebody knocking lightly on the door to my room. When I opened the door, I saw a different person from the one I had seen in the morning. This person hastened to say: 'If you are ready, please come with us. You do not need to carry anything in your pockets. You do not need paper or pen. Moreover, cigarettes and lighters are available where we are going.'"

The Arab official said: "Despite these strict instructions, I felt somewhat glad because, first, the deadly waiting was over, and, second, because I was within a hair's breadth or even closer to completing my mission. We left the hotel and got into an ordinary white Mercedes 190. I got into the backseat next to a person whose features I could not see clearly. My escort sat next to the driver in the front seat. The car moved, taking us from street to street while silence prevailed among us. Suddenly, the car turned to a vacant area and stopped in front of a residence on a quiet street. The escort, who was sitting in the front seat, got out and whispered something that I could not hear to the guard who was standing at the entrance to the residence like a ghost in thick darkness. The guard let us through.

"We got out of the car and ascended a short flight of marble stairs. I stealthily reached to adjust my necktie because I thought that Saddam was in the villa and that

I was going to meet him in minutes. We crossed the outer gate to a spacious internal hall and then to a next salon, where I was signaled by my escort, who did not say a single word throughout the trip, to sit on a comfortable seat. I waited in my seat for a few minutes, which felt like an entire age to me. From time to time, I would gather my thoughts and my courage so that I would have a successful conversation with a man whom I had never met in my life and about whom I had heard and read a great deal.

"Suddenly, and while my mind was focusing on the 'historic' interview, I sensed some extraordinary movement behind the doors. I fidgeted in my seat. A door was then opened and Taha Yasin Ramadan al-Jazrawi came through with his short stature, his military uniform, and his lean body that had been eaten away by the 'diet' imposed by Saddam Husayn on his aides and on all Iraqi officials against their will. While al-Jazrawi was opening his arms to welcome me, I realized that I was not going to see the man I had come to see and that I was going to meet only this official who has numerous titles but little power."

Embrace and Welcome

The Arab official added: "Taha Yasin embraced me warmly and welcomed me most cordially, offering me a lengthy and boring review of Iraq's current conditions. He was always careful to say 'may God preserve him' whenever he mentioned the Iraqi president's name. Finally, he told me that Saddam would see me soon and that his engagements made it impossible for me to see him that night. Taha Yasin told me farewell, and a different car with two different escorts picked me up. After a half-hour drive, we got to a hotel that was different than the one at which I stayed. To relieve my perplexity and to answer the questions that I had suppressed in my chest, one of the escorts said to me as we were entering the new hotel: 'Sir, we have moved you from the previous hotel for your comfort. We have brought your luggage and belongings from that hotel to this one. You can rest in your room, but we beg you not to use the telephone at all.'"

After recounting how he spent his night at the new hotel, he spoke about the following day and how he spent it in his room, not leaving it at all, and how he jumped up every time he felt some movement, thinking that they had come to take him to where he would meet the man he had come to meet.

The official went on to say: "After it turned dark, two more new escorts took me in a different car toward an external street. After a nearly two-hour drive, the car turned toward a side street. Half an hour later, the car came to a stop in the middle of a palm grove. The escorts got out of the car and asked me to do the same. Then they took me to a rural house immersed in oppressive darkness. Inside the house, there were three young men dressed in civilian clothing but carrying machine guns in their hands.

"I drank the tea silently, of course, and then went to the bathroom. I waited for about an hour and then heard a car stop in front of the house. Three escorts came to me and asked me to accompany them but did not tell me where we were going. This time, we got into a military Range Rover. The windows of the vehicle were covered by thick curtains. We traveled for about an hour in this car. We were then handed over to another, similar car that was waiting to meet us at a certain point. We traveled for about an hour in this car, which then stopped in the darkness, and we, myself and the new escorts, got out. These men delivered me to 'Comrade' Arshad, who took me to a bus parked nearly 50 meters away. I got into the bus only to find that it was tantamount to a luxury suite in a first-class hotel: Comfortable seats, brown mahogany tables, and expensive crystal pitchers and glasses. I had tea and drank fresh cold water amidst overwhelming silence. I then heard feet move toward the bus. Comrade Arshad entered, followed by Saddam Husayn with his tall figure and his distinguished military uniform. I jumped to my feet. He greeted me somewhat gravely and warmly. Then my difficult mission, for which I had suffered all these horrors, began."

Second Case

In the second instance, the Arab visitor experienced the same thing the previous visitor had experienced, especially on the first day at the five-star al-Rashid Hotel, which is located opposite the trade unions' premises in the center of Baghdad. This is the hotel across from and inside of which a heated confrontation took place between the UN inspection team and the Iraqi intelligence agencies.

This visitor, who came from a North African Arab country, said: "On the day after my arrival at the hotel, a young man in civilian clothing came to me in my room without calling first. After greeting and welcoming me, the young man said: 'Sir, you will come with us after lunch. You may bring your nightclothes and some other items that you may need for shaving and bathing with you.'"

This visitor said: "This young man left my room after warning me not to use the telephone at all and not to tell any of my acquaintances in Baghdad of my arrival in Iraq or of the reasons for the visit. In the afternoon, another young man came and asked me to accompany him and to take with me a small plastic bag in which I had packed my pajamas and whatever I would need to shave and brush my teeth. We left the hotel. I got into the backseat while my escort climbed into the front seat of the car, next to the driver. We drove off, going through many of Baghdad's main and side streets and stopping finally in front of an attractive residence in a wealthy quarter. When we got inside the house, I thought I would see Saddam Husayn immediately. But I was greatly surprised when one of the young men stationed at the residence told me that I could change my clothes and do whatever I wished to do. He led me to a well-furnished room, telling me it was the room where I was going to spend the night. I spent the night in this residence, which was immersed in silence and quietness. I did not hear a telephone ring, and I saw nobody other than the people I had seen upon my arrival with my escort, who had left immediately in the car which had brought me here. Thus, I spent the night gazing at the ceiling of the room in which I was staying. I slept very briefly out of sheer exhaustion and just before the sun rose to usher in an extremely hot Iraqi day."

The visitor continued: "I got used to my stay at this residence. I had dinner and then lunch, which consisted of sumptuous meals consisting of a variety of dishes. With the onset of the evening, another car arrived with two different escorts. After nearly an hour's tour of Baghdad's streets and quarters, I was taken to a new residence at the end of a side street that, I believe, is located on a bank of the Tigris River.

"This was a distinct residence that obviously was under heavy guard. When I entered with my plastic bag in which I had put my personal belongings, I felt that I was going through the arch of a magnetic detector used to detect weapons and explosives. At the end of the arch, designed in the form of an oriental gate, a guard took the plastic bag from my hand and said to me: 'Sir, we will give this back to you on your way out.'

"I handed over the bag while another guard asked me if I had any pens, cigarettes, or lighters with me. I was then taken into a beautiful parlor where I sat on a comfortable chair opposite another chair that was raised slightly higher than mine, even though both were of the same style. While sitting on my chair, I focused all my attention on a door located on the other side of the parlor. After half an hour or a little less, the doors opened and armed men came in from every direction. Suddenly, Saddam Husayn was in front of me, welcoming me with a soft voice in which I sensed some grief and exhaustion. This is how a long trip and an unprecedented experience ended."

Third Case

After a prelude very similar to the two preceding preludes about the phases involved with going to Baghdad to meet with Saddam Husayn, a third man who has had this experience said: "One of the crises of the inspection teams in Iraq had just ended. The atmosphere was charged, and people in the streets were still living with the concern of another military strike. [An escort] came to me at the hotel where I was staying and drove me to a barracks in Baghdad where I spent three hours. I was then taken to another barracks in a quarter of the Iraqi capital. After a wait of more than two hours, the Iraqi president came to where I was waiting. I told him what I had come for, and this is where my mission ended."

These are three cases of people who met with the Iraqi president—cases that AL-MAJALLAH has observed for an entire year. In addition to these cases, people close to the Iraqi regime's circles have said that in Baghdad alone there are 10 villas that are ready to receive Saddam Husayn at any time, that the same kinds of meals are delivered in the same quantities each day at these villas, and that guards assigned to keep watch over one of these villas know nothing about the other residences. Moreover, these guards are not kept in the same place for more than a week.

* Regime Envoy Contacts Opposition in Cairo

93P40052A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the permanent Iraqi representative to the Arab League, Dr. Nabil Najm, has had extensive contacts with the Iraqi opposition leadership residing in Cairo in an effort to convince them to return to Baghdad in exchange for some concessions.

Najm's move was carried out within the framework of the Iraqi regime's attempt to attract the Iraqi opposition leaders who reside abroad and divide the ranks of the opposition following increasing pressure from both inside and outside Iraq to overthrow the regime of Saddam Husayn. The sources in Cairo say that Najm's effort has caused a limited schism in the ranks of the opposition Iraqi Democratic National Grouping and that as a result of this schism a statement was issued by 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Alaji, a resident member of the opposition in Egypt, in which he attacked the decisions of the Irbil conference.

General Strike in Territories; Peace Talks Stopped

TA0912082492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] A general strike is being observed today in the territories to mark the fifth anniversary of the Intifadah. Police have been reinforced, particularly in Jerusalem and along the Green Line.

The Arab delegations to the peace talks in Washington will not attend sessions with the Israeli delegation today. Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the delegation negotiating with Syria, said that Israel regrets the Arabs' decision because it is a shame to waste one of the eight working days in the current round of talks.

Quiet prevails in the Gaza Strip. There is no traffic at the Erez terminal due to the closure in effect in the Gaza Strip and the general strike declared by the inhabitants.

This morning, a ban was imposed on all sea traffic in and out of the Gaza Strip. Soldiers and security troops are continuing their efforts to capture the terrorist gang that killed three reservists on Monday.

Our correspondent in the south Hayim Qeynan reports that Police Minister Moshe Shahal, the commander of the Border Police, and the Southern District's police commander toured police and Border Police posts in the Gaza Strip.

General Denies Army 'Losing Control' in Gaza

TA0812183992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The head of Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, says there is no decision yet on when to lift the curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip following yesterday's ambush which killed three soldiers. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked Gen. Vilna'i if he could report any progress in the search for the attackers:

[Begin recording] [Vilna'i] What I can say now that we are working on it, and it's not going to be a short case, but I believe that in the end we'll find them.

[Ben-'Ami] What's actually happening in the Gaza Strip now? You've closed off the area? There are curfews in some areas? What is the reason for this? How long is it going to continue?

[Vilna'i] We have to remember that now we are coming to the 9th of December [fifth anniversary of intifadah], and the people in the area, the Palestinians, are trying to celebrate, and one of our reasons to put curfews is in order to keep order in the area. I am not sure how long it will take. Each evening we have to check ourselves and to decide what to do for the day tomorrow.

[Ben-'Ami] There has been criticism from various quarters in Israel that the Army in fact is losing control of the situation in Gaza. There are areas which troops are not prepared—or not able—to go into, very great increase in armed attacks, yesterday's being the most serious.

[Vilna'i] There is no areas in Gaza Strip that we can't go into. But, we have to remember that there is no situation that we can be in every spot all over the area. But we are doing what we believe that we have to do in the area, and I know that fighting a terrorist is not an easy task, and sometimes it's very frustrating. But we control the area, and we know exactly what is going on there. And we have to work anyhow, and that's what we are doing. [end recording]

Hizballah Claims Responsibility for New Attack

TA0812142792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpt] An Israeli Defense Force [IDF] soldier was slightly injured by terrorist gunfire directed at an IDF detail in the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon this morning. Correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the troops returned fire. Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the attack. Correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that three other members of the detail inhaled smoke and required medical treatment. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 8 December reports the gunfire took place in Tallusah, in southern Lebanon.]

Rafah Youth Killed by IDF; Bomb Safely Defused

TA0812202792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpts] A youth who was about to throw a Molotov cocktail at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit, was killed in Rafah tonight. After the soldiers spotted him, he tried to escape, but was shot and critically wounded. An Army doctor was called in, but was unable to save him.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a border policeman was slightly injured in the face by a stone thrown during a riot in the city of Gaza. In Bayt Sahur near Bethlehem, a masked man wearing an IDF uniform was critically wounded by soldiers. His friend, also in uniform, was apprehended and detained. [passage omitted]

An explosive device was discovered today at a bus stop in Ramla. Our correspondent Yehudit Yehezqeli reports that a passerby found a suspicious-looking bag and called the police. A robot operated by a bomb disposal expert blew up the device. There were no casualties. The bomb will be examined at the Police General Command.

Masked Arab 'Seriously' Wounded Near Ramallah

TA0812185792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] One day before the fifth anniversary of the intifadah, the territories were generally quiet today. In the most serious incident an hour and a half ago, a uniformed activist was shot and seriously wounded by soldiers in Bayt Sahur near Bethlehem, close to the village's mosque. The incident occurred when soldiers shot at two masked activists dressed in uniform, who refused orders to stop. One was injured and taken to hospital, and the second man was detained. A curfew was imposed on the village.

In the Ramallah area, soldiers close to the al-Ram junction spotted a number of local residents throwing stones at Israeli vehicles. The soldiers fired at the crowd, wounding one of the stone throwers in the leg. The injured man fired a number of pistol shots in the air, but was immediately detained by troops and taken to receive medical treatment before being questioned.

Intruders broke through the security fence of the northern Samarian settlement of Homesh this morning. They damaged an electricity pylon close to the settlement's nursery school before fleeing. Security forces searched the area. They suspect the intruders came from the local Palestinian village of Burqa'.

The Gaza Strip remains closed following yesterday's terrorist attack, and the security forces are continuing their intensive hunt for the assailants. Palestinian residents reported door-to-door searches in the Jabalyah, al-Burayj, and al-Nusayrat refugee camps, and widespread curfews were imposed on neighborhoods and refugee camps.

Foreign Minister Comments on Golan Withdrawal

TA0812182492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Coming out of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session today, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that he does not support unilateral withdrawal from Gaza at this time, because it will create chaos, for which Israel will have to pay.

[Begin recording] [Nir] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that despite the harsh events of the recent days, the situation in the territories has not deteriorated. What we need now is not another settlement, because the problem lies in the heart of the territories, or rather in the hearts of the residents of the territories. They have no orderly decisionmaking mechanism, and in the absence of a consensus, guns have the last word, says Peres.

As for the possibility of unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, which he recommended before the elections, Peres says:

[Peres] Today I would not recommend it, because right now, I do not know who can take over the rule in the Gaza Strip—who can take over even the security aspect alone. At present, I would certainly not advise creating a Lebanon-like situation in Gaza; I would certainly not advise creating chaos, because we would be the ones to pay the price of chaos in Gaza. Therefore, I still prefer to make a very serious effort toward an arrangement.

[Nir] Later, replying to Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan, Peres said that if forced to choose between an Israeli recognition of the PLO—which Dayan demanded—and elections in the territories, he would opt for the elections. Ya'el Dayan and Yosi Sarid asked whether the elections would include residents of East Jerusalem both as electors and candidates. Peres refused to divulge Israel's stand on this issue, and the refusal was interpreted as a hint—moreover so because a national unity government was disbanded over this very question once in the past.

Referring to the Washington talks, Peres said he is under the impression that the Syrians are prepared to formulate a joint agenda already in this round of peace talks.

Peres further said that Israel has honored President-elect Bill Clinton's request to refrain from raising issues pertaining to the Middle East before his inauguration. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he supports the expansion of the government, Peres said:

[Peres] I am happy with the government as it is. [end recording]

Rubinstein States Government Position on Jerusalem

TA0912124192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Cabinet Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who heads the Shinuy faction of Meretz in the government, says his government supports a unified Jerusalem as Israel's capital. But, he says that unlike the Likud, the current government supports giving political expression to the other religions in the capital. The issue of Jerusalem also came up in the Knesset this morning. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday in the Knesset the government has not yet discussed the status of Jerusalem and he preferred not to state an opinion. In the Knesset this morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin explained that Jerusalem is not a subject for the current peace talks on Palestinian autonomy. As for the final arrangement after five years, Beilin said Israel's position has not changed and will not change.

But, there is a difference between this government and its Likud predecessor, even on Jerusalem. Meretz faction cabinet minister Amnon Rubinstein says he supports a model for Jerusalem based on the London central municipal authority that also gives powers to smaller boroughs within the city.

[Rubinstein] These boroughs can be divided between the different sections of Jerusalem—that I support. I also support, as part of a final peace settlement, a special status given to the holy places of Islam and other measures which will give expression to the special interests which Muslims and Christians have in our capital. But Jerusalem must remain united.

[Ze'ev] Could it be internationalized?

[Rubinstein] No, not at all. There is no reason for an internationalization of Jerusalem because under Israeli jurisdiction all rules pertaining to the sanctity of the holy places and to free access have been observed.

[Ze'ev] Would you say this government has a different policy on Jerusalem from the Likud government?

[Rubinstein] I think there is a change in the sense that we add, at least mentally, this proviso that in Jerusalem there are also other interests that we must take into account, that it is holy not only to us. But on the unity of Jerusalem and on the fact that it's going to remain the capital of Israel I don't think there is any doubt whatsoever. [end recording]

Controversy Erupts Over Rabin Expansion of Cabinet

TA0612115592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpts] When Prime Minister Rabin returns from his visit to Europe he'll have yet another domestic crisis on his hands over his intention to add more ministers to the cabinet. As described by reporter Le'a Zinder, these latest problems appear to have more in common with a baker making dough than a statesman running a government:

Somewhat like yeasty dough, the government keeps ballooning into new crises. Punch down one, and another appears. In response to intense Meretz pressure to appoint Yosi Sarid as a government minister, Prime Minister Rabin has decided to do just that. But, because of coalition considerations, that also means appointing two other ministers: one from Labor and one from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], bringing the total number of government ministers and deputy ministers to 31. This, in a coalition of 61 members of the Knesset.

Two Labor Knesset Members, Avraham Burg and Haggay Merom, will demand at next week's central committee meeting that no more Labor ministers be appointed. [passage omitted]

In addition, while a new round of appointments may requite Meretz, it could invite yet another confrontation with SHAS. SHAS insists that the Religious Affairs Ministry be placed in their hands, and says it will not compromise on this issue. But Rabin has reportedly promised Acting Religious Affairs Minister 'Uzi Bar'am that Labor will retain control of the ministry.

The prime minister leaves today for Italy and Britain, but when he returns he will have a considerable challenge ahead of him to keep the peace on the political home front.

Discussion of Autonomy Council's Powers Suggested

TA0612072992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] In the next round of peace talks opening in Washington on Monday Israel will suggest to the Palestinians that a discussion be held on the specific powers of the council to run the autonomy. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the delegation to the talks with Jordan and the Palestinians, said that the talks will not be influenced by the change of administration in the United States. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Jordanian demand to introduce changes in the agenda worked out between Israel and Jordan remains. In the negotiations with Syria, Israel hopes for progress.

World Bank Team Holds Talks, To Submit Survey

TA0812202392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Although the peace talks and the multilateral talks between Israel and its neighbors are conducted at a leisurely pace, the possibility of regional economic cooperation in the Middle East and the incorporation of Africa in that cooperation appeals to the imagination of many people.

A special World Bank delegation today concluded talks that will culminate in a survey the bank is compiling in anticipation of the anticipated development in this region. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports:

[Passage omitted] Following a request of the multilateral work team for regional economic development, the World Bank delegation today concluded a round of preliminary talks that will lead to a survey on Middle East and North African economies and to a more profound analysis of the development needs of selected economies in the region, including Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip, as well as an assessment of the financing that will be required for reforms which will accelerate economic development and expedite various projects in the region.

The director of the World Bank's Middle East Department noted that his delegation met with Israeli authorities, the Palestinian team to the peace talks, and Jordanian authorities.

In January or February, the World Bank will again dispatch small professional delegations to the region, and on 9 February, it will submit an interim report to the multilateral work team that will convene in Paris on that date. At a later date, it will submit the full report which will include an analysis of the macroeconomic framework and an analysis of private business sectors, infrastructures, and human resources.

Even if the report remains theoretical for the time being, it has already generated much excitement.

King Reportedly To Leave for U.S. on 10 Dec

NC0912123792 Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Amman, Dec 9 (AFP)—King Husayn leaves here Thursday for the United States to undergo his first tests following the removal of a cancerous kidney in August, authoritative sources said Wednesday.

The 57-year-old monarch was successfully operated on August 20 to remove his left kidney after cancerous cells were detected at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Since his return on September 24, when hundreds of thousands of his subjects poured into the streets to welcome him home, the king has seized every opportunity to allay Jordanians' fears about his health and the future of his country.

Husayn said in a nationwide address last month he had to submit to occasional checkups and would return to the Mayo Clinic to confirm that he was cured.

The king's personal physician, Samir Farraj, recommended checkups every three to six months.

Husayn recently told AFP he was in "excellent health," had recovered faster than expected after his operation and this would be confirmed by the tests.

Security Detains 2 Iraqis for Scientist's Murder

JN0912093592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman—Two Iraqi nationals have been detained in connection with the killing in Amman Monday of an Iraqi engineer employed by the government, security sources said Tuesday.

The two were detained as they were trying to leave the country shortly after Mu'ayyad Hasan Naji al-Janabi was shot dead, the sources said. "Investigations are continuing; more details could be available tomorrow," said one of the sources.

"All options are open," said the source without elaboration when asked whether there was any clear indication of who could be behind the killing, the first of its kind in Jordan in recent times.

Mr. al-Janabi, 52 described by his wife as a chemical researcher who worked for the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Commission until 1986 before moving to the Ministry of Military Industrialisation, was shot dead at point blank range by a gunman in black Monday morning near the al-Husayn refugee camp in Jabal al-Husayn.

Mrs. al-Janabi said her husband, herself and their two children—a girl of six and a boy of four—were on their way to the Tunisian embassy to get a transit visa for the trip to Libya when a gunman wearing black trousers and jacket and a black scarf masking part of his face approached them from behind.

The assailant "pulled my husband from the back and shot him in his head," said the wife, Wafa', 35. "My husband managed to say 'why' ... before collapsing. The man shot him at least three times more."

The assailant fled in a van with Iraqi license plates which was driven by another man and parked some 100 metres from the spot of the attack, said Mrs. al-Janabi.

According to Mrs. al-Janabi and other sources:

—Mr. al-Janabi, a Shi'ite Muslim, once worked at Iraq's Osirak nuclear plant near Baghdad which was mostly destroyed in a raid by Israeli warplanes in 1981. He continued to work with the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Commission until 1986, when he was transferred to the Ministry of Military Industrialisation.

—Mr. al-Janabi arrived in Amman in early November on a month- long vacation but he did not intend to go back to Iraq since he was offered a "teaching" job at a "nuclear institute" in Libya. The name of the organisation was not immediately available.

—The family stayed with Mr. al-Janabi's in-laws in Jabal al- Husayn. Mr. al-Janabi applied for a non-immigrant visa to the United Kingdom on Nov. 15. The application was being processed as is the routine for Western embassies accepting visa requests from Iraqi nationals.

"We wanted to visit my brother who lives in Manchester before proceeding to Libya," Mrs. al-Janabi said.

Mrs. al-Janabi, however, denied that her husband had "defected" and fled Iraq. "We travelled legally with our passports with permission from the government," she said.

An Iraqi embassy official accused the Israeli secret service, Mossad, of assassinating Mr. al-Janabi "to set back Iraq's development."

"Assassination is the classic means of Mossad to eliminate Iraqi and other Arab experts in various fields," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "No doubt Mossad is behind this killing also."

The official argued that documents removed by United Nations inspectors from various Iraqi offices in the course of implementing the U.N. resolution which ended the Gulf war last year contained the names and details of experts employed by the government in its weapons development programmes and the information could have been obtained by Mossad.

One of the Iraqis arrested Monday was identified by sources as Raja'i Bakr, a taxi-driver who used to ply the Amman-Baghdad route. He was arrested at the al-Ruwayshid post on the border with Iraq.

The second man was not immediately identified, nor was it clear where and when he was arrested. But the sources indicated that he was the prime suspect as the assassin.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS quoted Mrs. al-Janabi as saying that Bakr was a neighbour of the family in Baghdad and had telephoned her in Amman for a meeting which she refused because she suspected something was amiss.

The killing comes amid charges by U.N. officials that Iraqis are not cooperating with the world body in its efforts to eliminate Iraq's weapons programmes. Numerous projects have been identified and destroyed, but the U.N. officials say that Iraq could be withholding information or misleading inspectors.

REUTER quoted a cousin of Mrs. al-Janabi as saying that "Police told us early today (Tuesday) that the criminals were seized but they did not tell us who was behind it."

Asya Ahmad al-Janabi told the agency that police, acting on a tip from the family, had arrested the taxi driver.

"Police told us that through the driver, the murderer, an Iraqi man, was arrested," she was quoted as saying.

She said the driver had telephoned Mrs. al-Janabi's an hour before the murder took place telling her that he had arrived from Baghdad with $200 for them from her brother.

"Wafa' told the driver she would see him at 1 o'clock on Monday because they had to go now to the Tunisian embassy to get a visa to be able to go to Libya through Tunis," Asya said.

Killed on Way to U.S. Embassy

JN0912121192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Dec 92 p 28

[Text] The Public Security organs have managed to arrest the two non-Jordanian assassins of Iraqi Engineer Mu'ayyad Hasan Naji al-Janabi. The two assassins fired several shots at al-Janabi when he, along with his wife and children, were walking in a street near their home Monday morning. The security forces arrested one of the two assassins, a taxi driver, in the al-Azraq area as he was trying to leave the country. It has transpired that he knew the victim and his family when they were in Baghdad. Based on information divulged by the driver, the security forces managed to arrest the second assassin.

Acting on a tip from the victim's family, particularly the information given by his wife Mrs. Wafa' Subhi 'Ali al-Janabi, 32, the police had earlier managed to identify the two assassins. She saw from a short distance the criminal who shot at her husband. On that day, al-Janabi was planning to go to the Tunisian Embassy to get a visa in order to go to Libya [through Tunisia] with the aim of working there following the expiration of his residence in Jordan where he was spending his annual leave.

It has been learned from informed sources that al-Janabi had last month applied for a visa at the British and American Embassies, but his application was not approved. He then applied for a visa at the Tunisian Embassy in order to go to Libya.

A relative of al-Janabi said that at 0815 that day al-Janabi received a telephone call, which was said to be from the American Embassy, informing him that his application for a visa to the United States had been approved. He left his home at 0830, accompanied by his wife and two children, in order to get the visa.

Israel Accused of Murder

JN0912112692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Dec 92 p 26

["I Have a Word To Say" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "The Murder of the Iraqi Engineer"]

[Text] The murder of the Iraqi nuclear engineer in Jabal al-Husayn the day before yesterday was one in the series of aggressions carried out by Israel against all Arabs, and particularly against the advanced Iraqi military industries. In Paris, the Israeli intelligence assassinated one such scientist, who was an Egyptian and used to work in Iraq. In New York, the victim was a Canadian cooperating with Iraq. In Paris, the Israeli intelligence blew up a nuclear reactor designed for peaceful purposes which was on its way to Baghdad. In 1981, the Israeli Air Force raided the Tammuz reactor. Following this, several military industries buildings were blown up. When some spies were arrested, it was discovered that two of them were holding British citizenship. Despite their confessions during a trial which was attended by the British ambassador, Mrs. Thatcher, the then prime minister of the Conservatives government, was the staunchest instigator against Iraq among the allies, and one of the strongest advocates of carrying out the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

An Iraqi nuclear engineer was killed in Jabal al-Husayn, in Amman, the day before yesterday. A pistol, equipped with a silencer, was used in the murder. The assassin fled in an Iraqi car, along with another accomplice. The victim's wife saw the car and the assassin who did not even try to hide his face, which indicates that he did not care whether or not she could identify him, or whether she would meet him in the future.

The United States kicked up a fuss and severed its ties with the PLO, accusing it of being a terrorist organization. Yet, it did not demonstrate any such anger over any of the acts perpetrated by Israel, including this recent act on the territory of a government which is contributing toward the achievement of peace with Israel. This makes us ask: What can guarantee any peace agreement with these terrorists who have perpetrated this criminal act against an Iraqi citizen in Jordan at this particular time? We are confident that the Jordanian security organs will arrest the criminals, and that it will, just like America did with the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie issue, hand them over to Iraq, or will try them as murderers who perpetrated their crime in Jordan.

Ba'th Party Condemns U.S. Operation in Somalia

JN0912122892 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] Amman—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Jordan has issued a statement on the U.S. occupation of Arab Somalia.

The statement says: This is a new link in the chain of conspiracies led by the United States with the aim of occupying Arab territory under international cover and with the collusion of some Arab regimes. It became clear a long time ago that the United States was preparing to carry out a new scheme aimed at creating further tension in some areas of the Arab homeland to justify the dispatch of its war machine to these areas, which are close to the sources of energy and consummate its control of sea outlets in our homeland under all conceivable pretexts.

After the U.S. Administration, in agreement with its NATO allies, Turkey, and Iran, had managed to create a pocket of agents in northern Iraq; after it had carried out its schemes regarding the occupation of the Arabian Gulf outlets and the seizure of oil wells in the region under the cover of protection treaties concluded with the collusive regimes, it is now exploiting the Somali people's ordeal and suffering—the hunger and infighting among its factions and tribes it has encouraged—and dispatching scores of thousands of U.S. troops to occupy the Arab Horn of Africa in Somalia and Djibouti, which controls the Bab el Mandeb outlets in the southern part of the homeland, in a bid to pose threats to Yemen and Sudan.

Now that we have become acquainted with the U.S. operations conducted under the guise of upholding human rights, providing relief aid to the suffering and hungry, safeguarding security and stability, protecting agent rulers, or installing others in our homeland, we denounce and condemn all new imperialist operations and appeal to our Arab people, to our mass and party organizations, and to our trade associations to expose and condemn the objectives of these operations in order to thwart them by all means before it is too late so that the U.S. pincers may not clamp down on our homeland, bring about its gradual disintegration, and impose agent regimes on it to promote imperialist and international conspiracies to the detriment of our nation.

Parliament Replies to King's Speech From Throne

Senate Replies

JN0812182492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1203 GMT 8 Dec 92

["Text" of Senate's reply to King Husayn's speech from the throne, read by Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi before the king at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 8 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The government's decision to cancel martial law and the Defense Law of 1935 and laws emanating from it is an important step and an outstanding indicator of ending exceptional stages and resuming the era of full-blown democracy and the rule of the law. You have crowned this stage, Your Majesty, with the noble order of general amnesty, which faithfully reflected your humane character and wise leadership, and constituted a responsible call to all the sons and institutions of the homeland for more dialogue and respect for the law, as well as cohesion and concern for the safety of the Jordanian community and the coalescence of the one family; in addition to everybody's commitment to safeguarding the democratic community, protecting its stability, and giving precedence to the homeland's higher interests over any and all other considerations. [passage omitted]

While observing with great interest and appreciation the government's ongoing attempts to remedy unemployment and raise the standard of social services and develop its various agencies, the Senate expresses concern over the rising unemployment rate and the noticeable shift in the poverty level to include citizens and social segments which had been, until just recently, living above the poverty line.

Notwithstanding our observation that there is a prosperous construction drive and a tangible increase in some aspects of commercial and industrial activity in the Kingdom, there are obvious signs that the problem of unemployment has gotten worse and that some manifestations of dangerous social delinquency have emerged, which collectively represent negative phenomena that constitute, in our opinion, a new situation that requires a long pause and a mobilization of the efforts of the three branches of government, through all their agencies, to address these problems and prevent them from getting any worse. [passage omitted]

Your Majesty: The Senate subscribes to your assessment of the international situation and the grave dangers it poses to the Arab entity, as well as to our nation's fateful causes, in light of the present fragmentation and the absence of an Arab will and unified stance. The Senate also supports your tireless efforts to iron out differences, heal the Arab rift, and establish a unified Arab stance. It also calls for rectifying the role of the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization for the good of this nation, to defend its legitimate interests.

Proceeding from the constant principles of the Jordanian position toward its nation's fateful causes, primarily the Palestinian cause, the Senate has noticed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the response of Arab parties and their performance throughout a year of peace negotiations, as well as their constant concern to reach a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and end the dispute in this region, have been met with only more intransigence, negativism, maneuvering, and persistence in carrying out a racist Zionist scheme on the land of Palestine and other occupied territories in Jordan, south Lebanon, and the Golan. This necessitates restoring cohesion among brothers and emphasizing the need to forge an effective Arab position to deal with this situation, so as to reach a comprehensive, just peace that guarantees the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil, in line with international legitimacy, and bringing about full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, primarily holy Jerusalem.

Your Majesty: The Senate also praises your efforts and Jordan's constant policy in support of the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations, such as ending the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people and firmly supporting Iraq's territorial integrity, rejecting the conspiracy to divide it or infringe on its sovereignty and independence, as well as assisting other fraternal Islamic nations subject to aggression, injustice, and displacement, such as Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

House Replies

JN0812152692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1217 GMT 8 Dec 92

["Text" of House of Representatives' reply to King Husayn's speech from the throne, read by House Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat before the king at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 8 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God's peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and all his family and companions.

Your Majesty King Husayn, may God protect you. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. The 11th House of Representatives is pleased to extend its thanks and gratitude to Your Majesty for opening its fourth ordinary session and delivering a speech from the throne. Your speech underscored Jordan's achievements and drew broad outlines for governmental policy on the domestic and foreign levels.

The House of Representatives, which takes pride in your leadership, presents to Your Majesty its reply to the speech from the throne, beseeching God Almighty to grant you good health and enable you to pursue the march of goodness and to help you undertake the great responsibility you have always undertaken with high resolve, manliness, and creativity.

Your Majesty: We share your belief that bolstering a democratic approach and establishing a state of law and institutions, under which citizens enjoy freedom, equality, security, and stability, is our means and end at the same time to elevate the homeland's status and bolster the cohesion and unity of the Jordanian family. We view what has been achieved in this regard with satisfaction, appreciation, and respect.

The issuance of the new Political Parties Law came to enable citizens to engage in organized political activity, through a conscious, responsible political pluralism that is jealous for the nation's constants and the interests of the homeland, and one that adheres to the Constitution as a reference point and the National Charter as a framework. This allows for a variety of views and opinions, respect for different views, and having recourse to the judgment of the majority, away from intellectual terrorism and stereotypes of condemnation and accusation.

The House of Representatives looks forward to enforcing the letter and spirit of the law, with a broad-minded mentality that absorbs realistic changes and sponsors the democratic process with awareness, responsibility, and broad-mindedness.

Also, the House's discussions on the Press and Publications Law and its endorsement of most of that law's articles, which hopefully will be realized in all its constitutional stages before the end of this session, is another landmark along the road of our democratic march. This law will guarantee real freedom of the press and self-expression, writing, and publishing, considering that this process is in itself one of the guarantors of democracy in the state of law and institutions. The House will work hard to accomplish the laws on freedoms submitted to it, as a prelude to completing the building of our democratic edifice.

Your Majesty: Since its election, the 11th House of Representatives has been aware of the importance of creating a legal organization for those employed in the teaching profession. The House has explained to successive governments the importance of submitting a draft law for the Teachers' Association.

Afterward, the House proposed a draft law for this purpose. In accordance with the rules of the Constitution, the proposal has been referred to the government. It is a source of pleasure to our House that the royal speech from the throne declared that this draft will be presented to the House during its current term. We hope that this will take place at an early stage so that the House will be able to complete it before the end of the current session, God willing.

The House of Representatives also welcomes the referring of the labor draft law during its current term so that a qualitative step forward can be taken in terms of organizing laborers' affairs, safeguarding their rights, and enabling them to perform their effective role in supporting the national economy, which is based on their productive efforts and noble aspirations. We hope that this draft will positively contribute to tackling the unemployment situation. Our House also welcomes the referring to it of the draft law on youth care, which aims to lay down a comprehensive strategy for young people and sports, bearing in mind that our young people are the nation's asset, objects of hope, and represent our effective energy.

Your Majesty: The abolishment of the martial law regulations and the Defense Law of 1935, including the regulations based on it, has been a real achievement along the path of entrenching democracy as an approach and practice. Discarding this legacy is a landmark signaling our categorical decision to opt for democracy. This will prompt us to rid legislation of any unconstitutional stipulations which might violate citizens' rights and basic freedoms. We understand the issuance of the General Amnesty Law as one of the peculiar traits of this homeland, whose sons you have always wanted to live in an atmosphere of tolerance, brotherhood, and family cohesiveness.

We believe that democracy and safeguarding the Arab individual's rights and freedoms are the best ways of enabling the Arab individual to play his pan-Arab role in establishing a firmly based Arab unity that circumvents past mistakes and looks forward to the future. Your blessed call for completing steps to establish a center in Amman for freedom and democratic studies and human rights in the Arab world is a new pioneering step along the path of preserving human dignity in harmony with the Almighty's words: We have honored the sons of Adam; provided them with transport on land and sea; given them for sustenance things good and pure; and conferred on them special favors, above a great part of our creation. [Koranic verse]

Your Majesty: Our Armed Forces are the homeland's shield and fence. They are the object of our admiration and pride. We greatly appreciate Your Majesty's special care for them. We urge the government to give them maximum care and attention in terms of modernization, advancement, armament, and training. The government is called upon to give Armed Forces personnel due attention so that we can guarantee them an honorable life. After all, they are the defenders of the nation's outposts in the Jordan of steadfastness and mobilization, and those whom we save for the day of restoring rights and liberating the land.

As for the security organs, they are the homeland's watchful eye, protecting its security and maintaining its safety. We urge the government to provide these organs with care that guarantees their efficiency in fulfilling their duties and tasks, and enables them to be strong by right and law to protect our internal front against infiltration and division, to protect the citizen and secure his rights and liberties, and to respect his dignity in accordance with the principles of law and justice.

We consider tampering with the security of the homeland, and destabilizing its internal front, a crime that harms every citizen. Aggression against the rights of a citizen is an aggression against all citizens, and should be confronted with the same degree of power and firmness.

Your Majesty: Administration is the backbone of development and progress, and is the mechanism through which the citizen obtains his rights and perform his duties. Therefore, it is important that administrative planning always be a subject of revision and assessment so that the administration will cope with the needs of citizens, their interests, the development of their culture and public awareness, and so that the administration will not be confined to inherited rigid molds, which were the natural product of a previous social stage. Society has developed, but these molds have remained unchanged. We welcome the national plan for administrative training which aims at enhancing professional performance and developing those human capabilities which are basic to administrative development.

The House of Representatives believes that administrative development is not restricted to changes in leading posts, but it includes reassessing the organizational structure of the entire administration to revise links between administrative establishments, dissolve establishments whose objectives have been fulfilled or those establishments which had no realistic justification for their presence, and create establishments that meet the new requirements of the stage.

The House of Representatives hails the setting up of the Administrative Control and Inspection Bureau, and hopes that this bureau be given responsibilities, powers, independence, and efficiency that assist it in carrying out its desired role of alleviating bureaucracy and routine, expanding the distribution of powers, and abiding by legitimacy in all administrative decisions.

Administrative development also includes reviewing necessary procedures for a citizen to secure the services he needs, with the aim of simplifying these procedures and ensuring that the establishment that provides the citizen with those services is as accessible to him as possible. Administrative decentralization has become an urgent need, and the same goes for the development of local administration. Therefore, the House of Representative is looking forward to practical measures in this field that suit our society, emanate from our situation, and benefit from the experiences of others.

Protecting public money and the appropriate manner in which it should be spent require the activation of the Accountancy Bureau so it can tighten its control over expenditures. This requires that a new law for the bureau be submitted; one that is in harmony with the big developments Jordan has witnessed since the issuance of the previous law.

Your Majesty: We are proud of the public services available to our citizens in various fields. However, we see the challenges facing these services and look forward to being able to provide even more and to distribute them more fairly, throughout the Kingdom, in a way that is in harmony with each area's level of development. Emphasis in this regard should be placed on desert and rural services to make citizens want to remain in those areas, to reduce pressures on services in the cities, and to safeguard social justice for all.

The House of Representatives looks forward to seeing effective measures to mitigate the exacerbation of unemployment, poverty, and high prices. As we take into consideration the homeland's circumstances and potentials, we appreciate our good people's bias toward their homeland and nation, unaffected by prices and suffering. We look forward to applying the fair distribution of employee appointments in all government institutions, free of favoritism and private interests. Therefore, we believe that the Civil Service Office has a major role to play in curbing any violations of the principles of assignments and in reviewing these principles. The measures taken to address poverty should entrench the concepts of cooperation and self-employment, particularly in the rural and desert areas, by providing funds for this specific purpose. The plans and measures for these funds should be reviewed in light of their achievements.

High prices have become a severe problem facing all sectors, particularly lower-income people. Therefore, this problem should be addressed with firm measures to prevent monopolies, hoarding, and high prices and, at the same time, to encourage the private sector and increase investment.

Your Majesty: Jordan's natural relationship with the Arab and Islamic nation requires that it adopt a position that awakens this nation, nurses its wounds, and closes its ranks at a time when enemies have united their ranks against it. Hence, Your Majesty has expressed the conscience of your people through your call to restore the fabric of this nation, bypass regional seclusion, and endeavor to lay down applicable formulas for Arab unity. Without unity, the nation will not have a role in history.

The world around us is continually changing and quickly reshaping itself, and we have to exploit this historic phase. Otherwise, we all will have no role in fending off the current danger and formulating the new world. And fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and preserving: For God is with those who patiently persevere. [Koranic verse]

While we highly value Your Majesty's decision to reciprocate any good step toward solidarity among the Arab and Islamic nations with a bigger step aimed at ensuring that our nation remains within the circle of action, influence, future and civilization, we hope, in the name of your people, that your efforts will continue without tiredness or despair to rebuild solidarity among the states of our Arab and Islamic nations and to support their fateful causes. And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse]

Our communication with our brothers in the Arab and Islamic depths is our way of building up force and restoring our status, so that this nation can rise up to build its future in an atmosphere of liberty and respect for the people's will by allowing them to formulate the future of their generations.

Your Majesty, we reaffirm that the Palestine question is our nation's central cause. To us, it is our pivotal cause, with which we live as a big concern and a promising hope. We have committed ourselves to bearing many of its burdens, supporting the kinfolk, backing their intifadah on the land of Palestine, and we will remain loyal to the honor of defending it until God allows us to liberate it from the filth of occupation, enabling its to return to the nation, foremost being holy Jerusalem, the destination of the nocturnal journey of God's messenger, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the cradle of Jesus, peace be upon him.

Your Majesty, Jordan's honorable position toward the fraternal Iraqi people was dictated by this nation's firm stand based on principles rather than interests—a fact in which we take pride. Jordan's position under Your Majesty's leadership on the need to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, to strongly support the unity of their land, and to reject attempts at partitioning it or harming its sovereignty have been a source of pride and respect for the entire nation. It also epitomizes our pioneering position in defending the nation's interests and the future of its generations.

Your Majesty, the House of Representatives reiterates its deep thanks and gratitude to Your Majesty, and takes pride in your national pan-Arab positions and your persistent efforts to build exemplary Jordan and promote the nation's status, enhance solidarity among its countries, and continue to call for its awakening and unity. The House also entreats God, in the name of the people, to preserve you and grant you good health so that you can remain a leader and a symbol along the path of right and guidance. God listens to our calls. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Need Seen for More Democracy in Syria

JN0912095192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Set the People Free"]

[Text] It is not only the fate of Jordanian political detainees still languishing in Syrian jails for several decades that is of concern to Jordan but also the fate of Syrian prisoners of conscience incarcerated in violation of the minimum respect for human rights norms and standards. And it is not only Syria's record on such issues that attracts our attention and concern but also the entire file of human rights across the rest of the Arab World.

By and large the Arab record on respecting civil and political rights is abysmal. International accounts paint a rather gloomy picture about how Arab governments fare on internationally binding human rights principles and guidelines.

It goes without saying that Arab malaise and weakness are attributed basically to the lack of pluralistic democracy in most Arab countries. In spite of the continuous rhetoric about the need to incorporate multi-party democracy and introduce minimum human rights standards into the practices and legislations of most of the Arab countries, the gap between theory and practice is still growing by leaps and bounds.

The belated release of former Syrian President Nur-al-Din al-Atasi only shortly before his death from illness that developed during his 22 years in prison has brought to focus the issue of political prisoners in Syria and elsewhere across the Arab World. To the credit of Damascus, thousands of political prisoners were released early this year under an amnesty declared on the occasion of the reelection of President Hafiz al-Asad. Yet such measures simply do not go far enough to eradicate the phenomenon of arbitrary arrest and detention in Syria. Damascus needs to consolidate its political prisoners still languishing in its cells and then by making a clear and unequivocal commitment that henceforth no-one would be arrested or detained without the due process of the law taking its course.

Being essentially a regional power, it is incumbent on Syria to show the way for greater and deeper democracy on the basis of multi-party parliamentary system. Syria holds a special place in the Arab Order. Arabs everywhere look up to that country for chartering a new path towards development both material and intellectual.

To be fair, other Arab centres of power need also to move more effectively and forcefully in the direction of full democracy. Until such time, when most of the Arab states have gone democratic, Arab woes and suffering will continue to languish in the Arab milieu everywhere.

Jordan has shown the way for introducing liberty and self- determination to the Arab masses. It has worked well for the country in spite of the repeated errors and trials associated with the process of democratisation. We are sure democracy can work well also for the rest of our neighbours.

Information Minister Affirms Stand on Peace Talks

JN0812211392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has expressed hope that the new U.S. Administration will move quickly to speed up the process of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, the land-for-peace principle, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

This came during a meeting between the minister and a foreign press delegation, sent by the United Nations to explore facts in the region, which arrived in Amman yesterday on a three-day working visit to Jordan as part of its regional tour.

The minister warned against delaying the peace process and wasting time on general details that could foil the peace talks.

He stressed that Jordan is eager to realize a just and lasting peace within a comprehensive framework, and said that Jordan has formed an umbrella for the Palestinians, enabling them to participate in the peace negotiations on an equal footing with the other Arab parties. He emphasized that Jordan will not speak on behalf of the Palestinians.

The minister said Jordan refuses to conclude a separate settlement with Israel and insists on a comprehensive solution.

He spoke about democracy in Jordan and stressed that His Majesty King Husayn is eager to maintain democracy, and said the democratic establishments in the country have been completed after endorsing the Parties Law, in addition to the Press and Publications Law which will be endorsed soon, and after entrenching the freedom of speech and the principle of separation between the three branches of power.

Minister al-Sharif said that His Majesty King Husayn has called for the spread of democracy and respect for human rights in the region, based on our love for our Arab brothers, and stressed that this does not mean that we will interfere in the affairs of others.

He spoke about Jordan's position during the Gulf war and stressed the soundness of this pan-Arab position, saying that there is nothing for which Jordan must repent or apologize.

Al-Hirawi Cited on Peace Talks, Domestic Issues

NC0812151792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Remarks by Muhammad al-Ba'albakki, chairman of the Lebanese Press Association, after a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 8 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Press Association Council had the honor of meeting with His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. We invited his excellency to be the guest of honor at the reception the association will hold on the occasion of the inauguration of the association's new building. [passage omitted]

His excellency was eager to emphasize his and the government's adherence to public freedoms, especially press freedom. His excellency said: Some may imagine that we just talk about this issue. In fact, we view it with utmost seriousness and commitment. We cannot imagine Lebanon without freedom. Lebanon is founded on freedom. [passage omitted]

His excellency added: This freedom must be utilized to enhance confidence in Lebanon. Confidence is a basic prerequisite for Lebanon to emerge from its ordeal. Without internal, Arab, and international confidence in Lebanon, it would be difficult for the country to emerge from its problems. [passage omitted]

On the issue of the bilateral negotiations with Israel, his excellency was clear and frank. He said that he is not hopeful that much will result from the current round of negotiations. This is because the new U.S. Administration has not taken over yet, and it is necessary to wait for some time until President Clinton's policy becomes clear in the Middle East and all over the world. Lebanon, he said, will not give up one inch of its territory under any circumstances. It will not engage in any discussion about any security or other arrangements until Israel withdraws from every inch of our territory and the state's sovereignty extends to the international border. This is final. There is no room for compromise, and this should be understood by all outside and inside Lebanon. Lebanon is not prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel until all the Arab states concerned have signed such a treaty. The last country that can sign a peace treaty with Israel will be Lebanon. This must also be clear to everyone inside and outside the country. Lebanon wants peace, but on the basis of safeguarding its national interests and its complete sovereignty over all its territory up to the international border. This demands that UN Security Council Resolution 425 be implemented unconditionally. [passage omitted]

The conversation also dealt with the elimination of political sectarianism. His excellency the president was completely clear on the subject. He said that he wants this major national issue to be discussed within the constitutional framework and according to the al-Ta'if agreement. This agreement called for the establishment of a national committee, after the election of the first Chamber of Deputies—and this chamber was elected—which will have the responsibility of studying the means to eliminate political sectarianism on the basis of mutual acceptance that will unite the Lebanese and not become a cause for increasing their division. The country's development and movement toward a better future demands that we all view this matter seriously, because the time has come for our society and state to drop a system that was built on political sectarianism and has caused a great deal of misunderstanding among the Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Regarding the economic issue, his excellency said that efforts are being made—as everyone knows—to solve the economic and financial problem.

With regard to the outcome of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's and State Minister for Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt's visit to Saudi Arabia, his excellency said that we must wait until they return home to find out what was actually achieved during the visits. Lebanon will greatly appreciate any tangible assistance. [passage omitted]

SLA Envoy Denies Participation in Peace Talks

NC0912090592 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] After contacting a Voice of the South correspondent in Washington, South Lebanese Army representative Sharbil Barakat said he is not visiting Washington to participate in the peace talks and has nothing to do with them. He said the AFP report claiming the Voice of the South broadcast this was false and groundless. He said he is in North America to meet international Lebanese organizations to explain the situation in the border region.

Al-Hariri Visit to Jeddah Said 'Very Positive'

NC0912095392 Shumayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Returning to Beirut last night, Prime Minister al-Hariri met President al-Hirawi and briefed him on his visit, refusing afterward to make any statement or to reveal any information on his talks in Jeddah and Damascus.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] cited informed sources that Prime Minister al-Hariri's meetings in Jeddah were very positive and dealt with political and economic issues. [passage omitted]

The NNA also cited al-Hariri's sources saying that in Damascus, the prime minister discussed the regional, international, and internal situations and the government's action to entrench and bolster national reconciliation with the Syrian vice president and the prime minister. The two sides also evaluated the bilateral talks and the need to coordinate among the Arab countries to reach a united Arab stand. The two sides agreed that Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi will visit Beirut at the head of an expanded delegation at the beginning of next year to discuss with Lebanese officials issues of interest to both countries and issues that strengthen cooperation, brotherhood, and coordination between them.

Saudis Said to Give $200 Million

NC0912074792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Informed sources believe Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has ensured a Saudi donation of $200 million to Lebanon after two meetings with Saudi monarch King Fahd. The results of the first meeting were described as good and the outcome of the second as excellent.

Al-Hariri made no statement in Beirut yesterday on the outcome of his talks in Saudi Arabia and will not do so until he has briefed the cabinet on the talks today. He met President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday. [passage omitted]

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY cited informed sources as saying that Saudi officials stressed their support for the implementation of al-Ta'if Accord, for Lebanon in the peace talks, and for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. These sources said Saudi officials will back Lebanon in its plans to revive its economy. They will also encourage Saudi financiers and businessmen to invest in Lebanese reconstruction projects.

On his way home from Saudi Arabia, al-Hariri stopped over in Damascus and met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Al-Zu'bi is expected to head a delegation to Beirut early next year for talks on furthering bilateral ties.

Hizballah Condemns U.S. 'Invasion' of Somalia

NC0912083092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement condemning the American military invasion of Somalia. The statement believes U.S. insistence is behind the Security Council speedily issuing a resolution on this issue. Clearly the resolution serves the insistent U.S. desire to intervene in the Horn of Africa.

The Hizballah statement says one thing emerges above everything else, despite every attempt to cover it up with feeble titles and slogans—U.S. policy still proceeds from the basis of military intervention in various regions to guarantee its control and influence to combat and oppress opposing policies.

The Hizballah statement asserts: We condemn this intervention and warn against its grave repercussions, which could enlarge the circle of instability in the region and deepen tension and confrontation. We also condemn the symbolic participation of some Arab and Islamic countries in the intervention forces. This participation is worthless apart from providing cover for the flagrant U.S. intervention.

The Hizballah statement concludes: We wonder about the Arab stand on this intervention, in view of Somalia's being a member of the Arab League. We ask why there were no consultations among the Arab group and why similar, more complicated, cases were ignored, particularly the Bosnia-Hercegovina tragedy and the reluctant, yet conniving, international role that lets the Serbs continue their operation of organized annihilation of the Muslim people there.

Hizballah: U.S. 'Eying Sudan' With Somali Move

NC0912094292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "Aggression and Intervention in Somalia"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: Some 30,000 soldiers are intervening to feed the starving and have traveled thousands of miles to reach Mogadishu so that the world might register the Americans' distinguished and conspicuous humanity. If these 30,000 men are sent to deter the disputing factions and address the starvation, why is noone being sent to Bosnia-Hercegovina. International aid does not reach the starving in Bosnia-Hercegovina and there is no similar intervention there because of the war the Serbs are launching. Why is this U.S. intervention covered by UN resolutions and camouflaged by token units from certain countries?

Who decided Somalia needs so many soldiers to perform the limited tasks? Can the Security Council, the big powers, or others guarantee that the presence of these forces in the region will not lead to tension and problems that could spill over Somali borders?

The Americans are interested in more than Somalia: They are eying Sudan, particularly south Sudan, on the pretext of human rights, protecting minorities, stopping massacres, violations, and starvation. Perhaps there is a decision to interfere in Sudan; we think this is likely. There is an Islamic regime in Sudan working to follow the Islamic shari'ah and laying the foundations of foreign policy based on rejecting subservience to the U.S. policy, backing the nation's national and legitimate rights, and condemning hostile interference in its affairs. This has been the state of affairs in Sudan. For some time the Americans and certain Westerners have been playing up the Sudan issue in the media, although events in Sudan, particularly in the south, have no serious dimensions beyond the conflict of interests. Evidence of this is that the opposition forces in south Sudan have split up. Had there been a worthwhile issue to fight for, they would not have split.

This is a new type of intervention that will presumably lead to a permanent military presence in the region to protect the loyal forces and regimes and perhaps to discipline the opponent forces. Washington withdrew from the Horn of Africa after tension with Moscow disappeared during the cold war. The return to the Horn of Africa is intended to confront the Islamic revival that shines from the Horn on all Africa. This is not the first intervention and will not be the last. Washington must throw its weight and military strength against every Islamic or national awakening in any area that seeks to achieve independence and end subservient policies. This will be a common phenomenon by the end of this century and into the next.

The Americans seek to protect their interests, not human rights. If there are any excesses against human rights, they are in the occupied Palestinian territories and in Bosnia-Herzegovina. If Washington is concerned about one people who are engaged in internecine fighting, the priority should be to prevent the fighting between two peoples and nationalities in which one is threatening to exterminate the other and obliterate its identity.

It is no secret that the resolution passed by the Security Council to intervene was intended to cover the U.S. intention to intervene. Despite attempts to dilute the intensity of U.S. hegemony, UN resolutions are obviously made in Washington, not New York. This prompts many people to wonder if there is still a role for the United Nations and the Security Council and whether these two establishments have become tools working to serve U.S. policy interests. When there is hegemony by one superpower there can be no talk about international cooperation. What we see today is not cooperation; it is the strong trying to impose its views and conditions.

Hizballah Praises Hamas Operation in Gaza

NC0912100892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] On the occasion of the intifadah's fifth anniversary, and commenting on the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] operation in the Gaza Strip, Hizballah issued the following statement:

The heroic qualitative operation carried out by a group of strugglers from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in which one officer and two soldiers were killed, gives the annual anniversary of the blessed intifadah in Palestine special meaning and provides it with a significance of force, strength, and insistence to develop and escalate resistance activities to foil the conspiracy on the Palestine question.

The statement adds: While we salute this successful operation, we see it as a progressive step to confront attempts to launch our Islamic world into the abyss of darkness. We see it as a translation of a serious and decisive decision to step up the will to confront and challenge, in harmony with the Palestinian popular will that rejects the course of bargaining and treachery in the market of haggling across the negotiating tables. The Palestine question has gained nothing from this haggling other than further tragedy and pain.

The statement continues: Celebrating the intifadah anniversary in this struggle method confirms that the course of armed struggle is the only one capable of retrieving Palestine, defending our people, land, and usurped rights, and preparing for a dignified and free future.

To conclude, the Hizballah statement saluted the grand strugglers of the intifadah and the heroes of the qualitative Gaza operation. It affirmed that Hizballah stands alongside them and supports them on the course of liberation and jihad.

Afghanistan

'Unusual Activity' Cited; Possible Coup Rumored

BK0912274592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0736 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 9 (AFP)—Tanks and armoured vehicles roared into Kabul city Wednesday as fighting intensified between the forces of Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the Hezb-e Wahdat faction backed by Iran, Afghan and diplomatic sources here said.

One source said Wahdat mujahedin have seized parts of the Defence Ministry office of Mas'ud after taking over the television station overnight. Wahdat claimed more than 300 people were made captive during the seizure, including some high ranking officers. Other sources said the Air Force was also in action and at least two sorties had been reported so far around key government installations.

There is "unusual activity" in Kabul, informed Western sources said but they could not confirm reports quoting Wahdat sources that the mainly Shi'ite group had captured the Defence Ministry or the state-run television station.

"Tanks are on the streets and it is difficult to say if a coup was in the making" or the fighting has engulfed the residential districts, a non-Afghan source in contact with Kabul said.

It was also not clear if the air raids were in support of the government or the rival faction, said the source preferring anonymity.

Fighting between Hezb-e Wahdat and Shura-e Nazar troops of Mas'ud which started three days ago had intensified Tuesday when rockets landed on the presidential palace and in the fashionable Microryan District. [sentence as received]

Sources said rockets had also been landing on hills overlooking the television building from the western Kargah Base, controlled by Mas'ud's forces.

Coup Rumors 'Apparently Unfounded'

BK0912114092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1135 GMT 9 Dec 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 9 (AFP)—The Afghan capital was quiet but tense Wednesday as as a ceasefire came into effect after four days of intense fighting between the forces of Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat faction.

However, Mas'ud's Shura-ye Nezar faction is now embroiled with the Uzbek forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostam, prompting widespread but apparently unfounded rumours of a Dostam coup attempt.

A senior personal aide to the defence minister said the Dostam- Mas'ud clashes which flared late Tuesday afternoon started as an accident, when a contingent of Uzbek troops who had just flown into Kabul were stopped at a Defence Ministry checkpost.

A dispute arose over the required documentation for weapons, which only some of the Uzbeks had, the aide said, adding that a gun battle ensued in which the Uzbeks took the higher casualties.

Later in the evening, a division of Dostam's Uzbeks seized the airport road and the checkpost near the Ministry of Public Health where the initial clash took place.

About six Dostam tanks are now stationed at this main crossroads but the Uzbek soldiers appeared calm and relaxed and made no attempt to harrass what little traffic there was on the road.

The same Uzbek division also took over a large housing estate in the night, looting many apartments.

"The government guards offered no resistance, they fled. Dostam's men then kicked in our doors and walked off with television sets, videos and valuables. Those cars they couldn't steal they smashed with their Kalashnikov butts," said a frightened resident.

A Russian-made Sukhoy Su-25 jet-bomber that circled Kabul several times early Wednesday morning fanned the flames of panic among some international aid personnel as well as the Afghan public, but the Defence Ministry gave assurances that the jet was not a renegade.

"That jet was ours. It took off from Bagram airbase," said Mas'ud aide who did not specify the nature of the plane's mission.

He said talks were going on between representatives of both sides to settle their dispute, but gave no specific details, except that Dostam's claim for a seat on the country's ruling Leadership Council was not on the agenda.

As the talks progressed, there was shooting from the Bala Hissar fortress that guards the eastern approaches to Kabul and is shared by forces loyal to Dostam and Mas'ud.

Shura-ye Nezar troops have started to dig bunkers at all street corners in the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic enclave where many senior mujahedeen leaders, including Mas'ud, have their private residences.

Tanks and 82mm recoilless rifles and stacks of anti-tank rockets have been positioned there.

An indeterminate number of rockets were fired into Kabul during the night but it was unclear whether they were connected with the Uzbek or Wahdat clashes.

The official Defence Ministry-Wahadat ceasefire was signed late Tuesday afternoon but did not come into effect until early the next morning, according to some Wahadat fighters.

The government's heavy bombardment of ethnic-Hazara Wahadat positions in Chindawol had reduced many of the multi-storey buildings there to rubble, and the main Shiite mosque was hit many times in the fighting.

Shell-shocked Hazaras laid out their dead in the mosque, inviting visitors to see the injuries on the corpses. Most of the dead were elderly and one had had both his eyes gouged out.

80 Reported Killed as of 8 Dec

LD0812144892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul that the bloody and destructive fighting that started last Friday between forces of the Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat] and the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] continued yesterday for the fourth consecutive day. The correspondent adds: The fighting, causing enormous loss of lives and property, continued heavily yesterday in Qala-ye Wahed, Silo, Taimani, Pol-e Bagh-e Omumi [just south of the Presidential Palace], Karta-e Char, Chindawol, and Karta-e Parwan. The report says that areas of Silo, Baharestan Cinema, Bagh-e Baber and Koh-e Asmai, where forces of the Supervisory Council were based, have been captured by the Unity Party. Chindawol, which was controlled by the latter, has now fallen to Supervisory Council men.

According to new reports, Brigade Post 23 in the Afshar area, which was manned by members of the Supervisory Council, was captured yesterday by members of the Unity Party, and about 17 Supervisory Council security posts in Taimani have also been captured by the Unity Party. Our correspondent, an eyewitness of the fighting, says that heavy fighting continued yesterday between the warring groups in areas of Chehilsoton and Wazir Akbar Khan Mena [east of Presidential Palace]. Both sides used heavy weapons against each other and this resulted in the killing and wounding of a large number of the members of the two sides and of the innocent residents of Kabul. A large number of state and private buildings have caught fire as a result of the current fighting in Kabul. According to reports received from Kabul, it is said that as a result of the four days of fighting between partners of the coalition administration, apart from inflicting heavy losses on the oppressed residents of Kabul, a large number of state and private buildings and dwellings have caught fire as a result of the heavy weapons' fire by the two sides. According to reports, some buildings caught fire in the Pamir Cinema area in central Kabul, and the blazes continued all day. In Chindawol area, which was controlled by the Unity Party but later fell to Supervisory Council, blazes have been caused by the landing of heavy weapons shells. In some other parts of the city sporadic fires were seen yesterday, the third day of the fighting [as heard], but a precise report has not yet been obtained. The precise number of fatalities caused by this bloody and destructive fighting has not yet been ascertained, but a foreign source was quoted as saying that more than 80 people were killed in the fighting while the number of injured is said to be more than 600 people.

'All Parties' Agree to Cease-Fire 8 Dec

LD0812171692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Statement issued by the Peace Council of Kabul City]

[Text] As a result of the efforts by the peace mission, all sides involved in the fighting have agreed to enforce an immediate and lasting cease-fire with effect from 1700 on Tuesday 8 December. All sides involved are notified that that they must strictly observe the cease-fire from that time. Violators will bear the responsibility for their acts. Success comes from God. [sentence read in Arabic]

[signed] The Peace Council of Kabul City.

More on 9 Dec Clashes

LD0912115192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Reports from Kabul indicate that fierce fighting between Unity Party and Supervisory Council forces is continuing for the fifth consecutive day.

One report said that the fighting was concentrated in Dehmazang, Karta-e Char, Gozarghah, Karta-e Parwan, Darolaman, Pol-e Artal, Tapa-ye television, and Chehelsotun regions. Each side is trying to capture the other side's bases and headquarters. The report adds that fighting resumed at 0200 last night after a short break and intensified at around 1200 yesterday. Although there is no accurate report on advances and retreats of any of the belligerent parties, a responsible Unity Party source told our correspondent that their forces have occupied most of Television Hill. Dehmazang and Gozarghah regions and areas around the Russian Embassy, located in Darolaman, were also occupied by Unity Party troops.

Citing eyewitnesses, the Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that fires can be seen in Dehmazang region. The location and cause of the blazes is unknown. It was also reported that Television Hill was on fire and that part of it was destroyed. The precise number of casualties is not yet clear, but there are unconfirmed reports that around 800 people have been either killed or injured since the start of the fighting, many of them innocent and defenseless Kabul citizens.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1030 GMT on 9 December reports: "Clashes in Kabul continued overnight. Fighting between General Dostam's forces and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces began minutes after a cease-fire between the Islamic Unity Party and the

Supervisory Council. General Dostam's spokesman in Kabul told Islamic Republic Radio and Television and IRNA correspondents that the conflict started after Supervisory Council forces attacked a position of the northern forces, leaving at least 20 dead and wounded. The same report noted that a single fighter-bomber under General Dostam's command flew over Kabul for 20 minutes at around 0930 and broke the sound barrier over several parts of the city."]

Fresh Forces Airlifted Into Kabul

LD0912111092 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 December 92

[Text] A source close to the Ministry of Defense who does not want to reveal his name told a reporter of Radio Message of Freedom that officials of the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] have airlifted in fresh forces from Bagram district, Parwan Province, and deployed them in the fighting which is going on in Kabul city. The report adds that Saranwal Mahmud, one of of the high-ranking officials of the Supervisory Council, went to Parwan Province and held consultations there with other commanders of the Supervisory Council. After a long dispute he managed to send to Kabul a number of men who were stationed in Bagram airport for the purpose of fighting against the Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat]. The report adds that a number of Supervisory Council commanders are dissatisfied with the situation and oppose the selfish attitude of [Defense Minister] Mas'ud.

India

Further on Ayodhya Temple Violence, Aftermath

Premier, President Meet

BK0912162892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister has called for a joint front of all forces in favor of secular mode of thought to meet the present situation. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the situation is still tense, but the government is expecting improvement in it. The prime minister was talking to a parliamentary delegation of left parties and also a group of editors who met him in New Delhi today. He said the ban on communal organizations will be imposed soon. The details are being worked out. Mr. Narasimha Rao said that there is need for a national debate on separating religion from politics. He observed that religious issues cannot be made a basis for electoral contest. The prime minister called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] this evening and apprised him of the current situation in the country.

Rao on Communal Organizations

BK0812163992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] A commission of inquiry may be set up to go into the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya. This was indicated by Mr. Narasimha Rao while addressing the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP-I] in New Delhi today. He also hinted the prosecution of Mr. Kalyan Singh, who had resigned as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh [UP] following the incidents. Mr. Narasimha declared his government's determination to take very strong, but very difficult decisions to uphold the Constitution and maintain law and order and communal harmony. He said a decision is likely to be taken tonight, identifying communal organizations which are to be banned for opposing the rule of law and the Constitution. He said these organizations have exhibited a total betrayal of the country. Mr. Narasimha Rao pointed out that action will also be taken against UP government officials, who are responsible for dereliction of duty resulting in the demolition of the structure.

The prime minister declared that the Congress and the government would never violate the rule of law and the Constitution. He said the party may lose power and sit in the opposition, but it would not do anything to belittle the Constitution given to them by their leaders.

Stating that the country is passing through a difficult time, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the next three to four years are going to be extremely crucial. He said the whole world is watching us and said that all members of the party should rise to the occasion. Mr. Narasimha Rao said in this country we have not allowed any spiritual power to come into conflict with the power of the state. That is why, he said, he had talked to the sadhus [Hindu saints] and they had agreed for an amicable settlement of the dispute. But, amazingly, Mr. Narasimha Rao said, they took a decision abruptly when the government was fairly close to the solution in the sense that the government was going to refer everything to the Supreme Court.

The minister for human resource development, Mr. Arjun Singh, congratulated the prime minister for what he has been able to do to save the country from a very real danger, and not only from communal forces but the vested interests lurking behind them who wanted to destabilize the country. Mr. Arjun Singh assured Mr. Narasimha Rao of his full support of all partymen, as he said he is firmly of the belief that the Congress party alone can take the country to the heights visualized by Pandit Nehru.

Speaking to newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the CPP-I unanimously extended its wholehearted support to Mr. Narasimha Rao in his determined resolve to uphold secularism and to protect and preserve the country's unity and integrity.

Normalcy 'Fast Returning'

BK0812165792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The kar sevaks [volunteers for temple construction] have started returning home from the disputed complex at Ayodhya. They are leaving by trains and buses specially arranged for them. Normalcy is fast returning in the curfew-bound areas of Faizabad and Ayodhya. The situation is peaceful in these cities. As reported earlier, the central security forces in a swift move early this morning took control of the entire Ayodhya town, including the acquired land and the disputed site without any bloodshed.

Reports from other parts of the state say the situation in the 22 curfew-bound cities and towns is tense, but under control. Over 600 arrests have been made so far. Thirty-five persons have lost their lives in various incidents.

The entire disputed area has been fenced along with 85 vantage points around it. According to the official spokesman, the idols are safe. The Home Ministry is working out the modalities of banning all communal organizations. The government yesterday decided to clamp the ban after considering the developments in Ayodhya.

Meanwhile, the home minister has asked all the chief ministers to maintain a close watch on the law and order situation. In a letter, he instructed them to take immediate steps so that violence does not escalate.

Government's Role Defended

BK0812162592 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1535 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] It was mentioned in our briefing yesterday that heads of Indian missions who had gathered here for a briefing-cum-orientation course, had been asked to return to their respective capitals, so as to be on [the] spot to carry out their task of keeping their host governments and other opinion makers informed about developments in India, in the wake of events at Ayodhya.

Today, before their departure, a briefing was held for them on Ayodhya issue. Ministers of State Eduardo Faleiro and R.L. Bhatia, as well as Naresh Chandra, adviser on Ayodhya in Prime Minister's Office, briefed heads of missions on background of overall dispute, recent events, and government's priorities following situation created by destruction of Babri Masjid.

Among other things, it was pointed out that the government's reaction to this crisis has been swift, resolute, and comprehensive. Crisis created by failure of state government—which, in our federal polity, had responsibility to maintain law and order—had been addressed squarely by government. Nation's total commitment to democracy, secularism, and rights of all communities was underlined by government action in dismissal of state government and arrest of leaders whose actions had contributed to crisis. Charges of weak response by government stood countered by quick and effective action by government, including a declaration of total support and confidence for prime minister from congress parliamentary party.

A first set of measures has already been announced by government, under which communal organizations will be banned, strongest possible action under law will be taken to bring to book culprits connected with demolition of Masjid structure, and disciplinary proceedings will be initiated against various authorities, who lapsed in peformance of their duty. It was also decided that government will see to it that demolished structure is rebuilt and appropriate steps will be taken regarding a new Ram temple after eleventh December 1992, when court judgment attracted in matter will be issued. While matter is an internal one, and one for India's sovereign government to deal with, it was necessary to counter flood of speculation and disinformation in some quarters with correct facts. India's total commitment to its secularism and democracy was dramatically underlined not only by condemnation of recent event in Ayodhya by every political party, but also by press opinion across the board.

Death Toll 449

BK0912001092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1808 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Dec 8 (AFP)—Twenty-nine people died in continuing Hindu-Moslem violence Tuesday, bringing the death toll in India to at least 449 in two days of violence following the destruction of a mosque by Hindu fanatics.

Top Hindu leaders jailed here over the destruction of the mosque were flown out to be produced before a northern Indian court.

At least 26 people were burned alive and two shot in the northeastern state of Assam Tuesday in the fallout of the mosque's razing by Hindu zealots in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

The deaths took the death toll in two days of Hindu-Moslem violence across India to at least 449. [passage omitted]

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said 18 people were killed as rival community rioters torched a number of houses in remote Dobaka and seven more in Jamunamukh area in Assam's Nowgong district.

Two more were killed in other unspecified incidents of violence in the oil-rich state's Dhubri district.

Two people, who were injured in police firing overnight Monday, died elsewhere in Nowgong district, the news agency said.

Some 230 people died in several other states, mostly in the north, Monday. Some 190 more were killed overnight Monday Tuesday.

The worst-hit was Maharashtra on the western coast with a toll of 125, including 80 killings in its capital city, Bombay, India's commercial hub.

As the death toll climbed, eight top Hindu leaders who were arrested here Tuesday on charges of instigating communal hatred while pursuing their plans to erect a temple on the controversial mosque site, were flown out to Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

The eight included Lal Krishan Advani from the opposition Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP: Indian People's Party), who is often touted as a possible furture prime minister of India.

The leaders were to be produced before the court of the chief judicial magistrate in Uttar Pradesh's Faizabad District, which governs Ayodhya. [passage omitted]

Situation Throughout Country Updated

BK0912033092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has asked all the chief ministers to maintain a close watch on the law and order situation. In a letter, he instructed them to take immediate steps so that violence does not escalate.

Reports from various states speak of relative calm in the violence hit areas, while the security forces have further strengthened their grip over the law and order situation. In the worst hit Maharashtra, a high-level meeting convened by the chief minister in Bombay yesterday decided to bring more areas under curfew. The army has been called in several parts of the state. In Bombay the death toll has gone up to 85.

In Madhya Pradesh, the situation in the curfew bound 12 cities is reported to be peaceful. The director general of police told our Bhopal correspondent this morning that the situation in Bhopal is tense but under control. In Jabalpore, curfew was relaxed for two hours yesterday, which passed off peacefully. Over 1,800 persons have been arrested in the state so far. The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, who arrived in Bhopal last night, visited the affected areas. The state chief minister, Mr. Sunderlal Patwa, also visited the violence hit areas in Bhopal and reviewed the law and order situation with senior officials.

In Gujarat, the situation in the curfew-bound Ahmedabad city is tense but under control. One hundred and six people have lost their lives in the last two days of violence in the state. The Army took out flag march in vulnerable localities of Surat, Baroda and Ahmedabad.-[sentence as heard]

In Assam, curfew has been imposed in violence-hit areas and the Army has been deployed to assist the civil administration. At least 30 persons have been killed in violent incidents.

In Bihar, nine cities have come under curfew as the death toll has gone up to six.

In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the 25-curfew bound cities and towns is reported to be tense but under control. According to official sources in Lucknow, the Army is assisting the local administration in Kanpur. Additional paramilitary forces have been deployed in the sensitive areas of the state. At least 55 persons lost their lives in the state in two days of violence.

In Punjab, precautionary curfew in (Malaj Kotla) of Sangrur District is continuing for the third day today.

In Andhra Pradesh, at least seven persons were killed and 24 injured in different parts of the state. More security forces have been rushed to the affected areas.

Reports from Kerala say that six persons were killed in yesterday's bandh [strike] related violence.

In Jammu, curfew continues to be in force in Rajouri and Poonch districts. All educational institutions in Jammu District have been closed for today and tomorrow. Examinations in Jammu scheduled for today and tomorrow have also been postponed.

More on 'Tense' Relations

BK0912093692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The law and order situation in the curfew-bound cities and towns across the country remained tense, even if there was improvement in the situation in West Bengal.

In Assam, shoot-at-sight orders have been issued in the Hojai town, Nowgong District, this morning, where at least 30 people were reportedly killed in mob violence last night.

In Bombay, the death toll has gone up to 95. Five more areas in the city have been brought under curfew following violence. Security forces are continuing flag marches in the disturbed areas. Schools, business establishments, and government offices are almost deserted. Road and rail transport have come to a complete halt. Meanwhile, curfew is continuing in sensitive areas of Thane District.

In Gujarat, the situation is tense, but under control. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Himmatnagar town, of Sabarkantha District, since this morning, following violence.

In Ahmedabad, police fired several rounds to disperse violent mobs in Kaglapit and Bapanagar police station areas this morning. Indefinite curfew has also been imposed there.

In Andhra Pradesh, over 100 people, including two legislators from Hyderabad city, were taken into custody today in connection with the bandh [strike] call.

In Uttar Pradesh, the death toll has risen to 61. A curfew has also been imposed as a precautionary measure in some more areas. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that some incidents of stabbing and brick batting have been reported from Jalaon and Pilibhit Districts.

In Faizabad and Ayodhya, curfew continues as a precautionary measure. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, after going round the twin cities, reports that the situation is peaceful. Paramilitary forces are patrolling the sensitive areas of the two cities.

In Orissa, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Kendrapara since last night. Police resorted to tear gassing and firing in the air in Cuttack today to disperse an unruly mob. The situation is officially stated to be tense but under control.

According to reports, there were sporadic incidents of arson and stone pelting in Mysore, Mangalore, and Bangalore, but Gulbarga and Bidar are quiet.

In Assam, 50 people have been killed in violent incidents in three districts of Naogong, Dhubri, and Goalpara so far. The situation in all the seven curfew-bound towns is tense. The army has been deployed in all the disturbed areas.

In Bihar, two police station areas of Ranchi town have been handed over to the Army for combing operations. No untoward incident has been reported from any of the nine curfew-bound towns of the state since last night.

Appeal to Muslims on Violence

BK0912034692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The All India Babri Masjid Action Committee has appealed to the Muslims throughout the world not to resort to violence in consonnance with the teachings of Islam. In a statement the committee leaders, Mr. Jaffar Jilani, Maulana Muzaffar Hussain and others, said in Lucknow that they fully shared the sentiments of the Muslim community. They appealed that no damage should be done to any place of worship or any innocent person be attacked in retaliation of the developments at Ayodhya. As reported, the Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee has also appealed to the Muslims in other countries not to react in an un-Islamic manner. It appealed to the governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh to assure their non-Muslim minorities that their places of worship will be fully protected.

Front Condemns Attacks

BK0912092692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The All India Minorities Front has condemned the attack on temples in Pakistan and Bangladesh and demanded full protection to the places of worship in these countries. The executives of the front, which met in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Mr. S.M. Asif, welcomed the government's decision to ban all communal organizations and to rebuild the demolished structure at Ayodhya. The front also expressed full faith in the prime minister and hoped that he will be able to defuse the situation and to punish those responsible for the incidents in Ayodhya.

Ministry Statement on Attacks in Pakistan

BK0912153292 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1442 GMT 9 Dec 92

[All figures as received; "Statement by MOS—Minister of State—for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia on 7 December"—ISI headline]

[Text] It is with deep concern that we have heard of organised acts of vandalism, arson and looting which have been let loose in Pakistan. During past two days minority community is being subjected to mindless violence and brutality. Nearly 50 Hindu and Jain temples and Sikh shrines have been burnt down or destroyed in different parts of Pakistan. Revolting, sacrilegious acts have been perpetrated on these places of worship some of which are centuries old and constitute common heritage of subcontinent. Pakistan has no moral high ground to speak of Babri Masjid.

2. Abhorrent acts of vandalism have also been perpetrated on Indian diplomatic premises and property in Islamabad and Karachi. Our consul general's residence in Karachi has been ransacked and property burnt. Our diplomatic officials have been subjected to numerous unacceptable acts of violence and harassment over past two days. We have been compelled to evacuate from Karachi dependents of our consultate officials and arrangements have been made to repatriate 42 ladies and 66 children. It is most unfortunate that apart from occasional sermonising on high principles of diplomatic proprieties, Pakistan continues to falter in its actual conduct in respecting immunity and privileges of foreign diplomatic missions. We were hoping that recently concluded code of conduct between India and Pakistan would persuade Pakistan to show a sense of responsibility in this regard.

3. We expect Government of Pakistan to provide full protection to our diplomatic missions and stop this vandalism forthwith. Otherwise it is bound to have serious repercussions in India.

Full Protection Requested

BK0812162292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] India has asked Pakistan to provide full protection to its diplomatic mission and prevent all acts of vandalism on them. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, cautioned that otherwise, it is bound to have serious repercussions in India. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said India has been compelled to evacuate the dependents of our consulate officials in Karachi following acts of vandalism. The house of the consul general was ransacked and properties burned today. The minister said arrangements have been made to repatriate 42 ladies and 56 children. Mr. Bhatia regretted that the Indian diplomatic officials have been subjected to numerous unacceptable acts of violence and harassment over the past two days. He said it is most unfortunate that apart from occasional sermonizing on the high principles of diplomatic propriety, Pakistan continues to falter in its actual conduct.

Pakistani Envoy Declared Persona Non Grata

Caught With Documents

BK0812013892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] India has asked an official of the Pakistan High Commission, Mohammad Ashfaq, to leave the country within a week. He was nabbed on Saturday while receiving sensitive documents from his Indian contact, an Army havildar [low-ranking military official] based in Jammu and Kashmir. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi that the government has lodged a strong protest with the Pakistan High Commission over the incident. He said that the Indian contact during interrogation had admitted that he was working for the Pakistan High Commission since January 1989.

[Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English at 1600 GMT on 7 December reports that "The Indian Government has declared Mr. Mohammad Ashfaq as persona non grata. The decision was communicated by the Indian Government to the Pakistani high commissioner, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, in New Delhi this afternoon. Mr. Ashfaq has been asked to leave India within seven days.

["Meanwhile, a C-130 aircraft and Pakistani medical mission is still awaiting permission from the Indian Government to bring back Mr. Ashfaq for medical treatment. Mr. Ashfaq was brutally tortured by Indian security agencies on Saturday."]

Envoy 'Rejects' Protest Note

BK0612165592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. S.K. Lamba, has rejected the contents of the protest note of the Pakistan Government concerning the official of the Pakistan High Commission, Mohammad Ashfaq, who was caught receiving sensitive documents from an Indian Army personnel in the capital yesterday. Speaking to AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent, the high commissioner described the response of the Pakistan Government as overreaction and unnecessarily escalating tension between the two countries. Earlier, Mr. Lamba was called to the Pakistan Foreign Office by the acting foreign secretary to receive a protest note.

Protest Day Observed in Kashmir

BK0812162092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In response to the call by Pakistan for observance of protest day today, massive demonstrations were held throughout occupied Kashmir to condemn the desecration and destruction of the Babri Masjid [mosque]. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], four persons were martyred and several injured when Indian troops opened indiscriminate fire on a protest rally in Srinagar; 30 persons were arrested. Clashes between Indian troops and mujahidin have also been reported from various parts of the held valley. Two Indian troops were killed and several injured in these clashes. Mujahidin also suffered casualties.

BJP Calls Nationwide Strike Over Arrests

Security Tightened

BK0912005492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Security arrangements have been tightened all over the country in view of the bundh [strike] call given by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. The nation-wide bundh call has been given by the party in protest against yesterday's arrests of BJP leaders, including Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Mr. L.K. Advani. The state governments have deployed additional police forces in trouble-prone areas. In Maharashtra, the director general of police told newspersons in Bombay that the security forces have been redeployed to ensure peace in the communally sensitive areas. In Delhi, 45 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed along with over 50,000 strong Delhi police force in view of the bundh call.

Meanwhile, the Congress-I, the Janata Dal, and the Left parties have opposed today's bundh. A Congress-I spokesman said in New Delhi that the bundh call has been given without any purpose and the people should not be misled. The Janata Dal and the Left parties in a statement said that bundh is a provocation which all the secular forces should oppose.

'Little to Mixed' Response

BK0912091292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The bundh [strike] call given by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] began peacefully in the capital, New Delhi, today. The situation is under control and the police is keeping a strict watch. Bus services, offices and banks are functioning normally. Markets and shops in many parts of the city are, however, closed.

The bundh has evoked little response in Nagaland, Mizoram, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sikkim, and Haryana. However, the bundh has evoked mixed response in Assam, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, and Jammu and Udhampur areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Parliament Adjourned Until 16 Dec

BK0912065692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha has been adjourned till the 16th of this month amidst unprecedented uproarious scenes. When the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, made the announcement, members from the Congress-I and the National Front-Left parties greeted it with thumping of desks and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] strongly resented the move. The speaker said the Business Advisory Committee has decided that the House should be adjourned up to the 16th to give opportunity to members to go to their constituencies during these difficult days the country is facing. The House will reassemble at 1100 on the 16th.

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 1430 amidst uproarious scenes for the third consecutive day today. As soon as the House assembled, the BJP leader, Mr. Sikander Bakht, was up on his feet demanding to know the whereabouts of the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, who is also a member of the House. Mr. Joshi was arrested yesterday. All the BJP members joined him and raised slogans wanting Dr. Joshi to be brought to the House. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the House should pass a resolution condemning the incidents in Ayodhya. The Congress-I members also started shouting slogans against the BJP. The BJP members rushed to the well of the House and continued with shouting. The members of the other parties were silent. The chairman, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, pleaded with the members to go back to their seats and say whatever they wanted to say in a proper manner. The members, however, refused to heed and ultimately the chairman adjourned the House.

Commentary on U.S. Troops in Somalia

BK0912124692 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Dec 92

[N.J. Chaudhary commentary: "U.S. Troops to Somalia"]

[Text] Some 30,000 U.S. troops are on way to Somalian capital Mogadishu in a biggest operation of troop-related aid. About 1,800 American Marines are landing now in war and famine-ravaged East African nation. It is for the first time that a UN-backed force will enter a country for relief operations. Though African nations have welcomed the decision to halt a major human tragedy in Somalia yet there are many misgivings as the forces are not landing under the command of the United Nations.

Even in America, questions are being raised that at what stage the international community should intervene to stop starvation and human rights violations. And if these are becoming criteria for the United Nations' action, how much starvation is necessary and how bad does the human rights situation have to become to justify international action? If in Somalia, why not in Bosnia, Kurdistan or Haiti? This also proves another point that even after the end of cold war, the military superiority is still the strength of superpowers. The U.S. is the only country which has the ability to move men and material in strength quickly and effectively.

The first to land in Somalia are 1,800 Marines and a three-ship strike force led by the amphibious assault force ship U.S.S. Tripoli which is off the east African coast followed by light infantry Marines from the First Marine Explorationary Force flown in from Captain Pendleton, California. Also steaming into the region is Navy supply ship M.V. (Jack Lumas) with 300 vehicles, tractors, trailers, trucks, and forklifts to help in the relief mission. The American contingent consisting of helicopters AH-1 Cobra, CH-53 Sea Stallion, CH-46-C Night Transport and UH-1 Hawk, the Air Force will provide a sky chain of C-141's, C-5's to transport the infantry units and logistics. As the situation indicates the task of the U.S. troops would be to round up and disarm the warring Somali gunmen, let us hope Americans will not get bogged down in guerrilla war. The task assigned to the troops is to restore order which means dealing with guns, mortars, artillery and other weaponry amassed by Somalian warlords.

It is difficult to imagine a peaceful disarmament of guerrillas. And the question equally important is now how long the U.S. forces will stay. They cannot stay till all Somalia's problems, including return and settlement of refugees are solved. In any case, Americans will have to leave a sizeable U.S. combat force in Somalia and that, too, for a long time, however limited the role of U.S. operation may now be. Meanwhile, UN General Secretary [Butrus]-Ghali has expressed the hope that the U.S. forces would restore order equally in Somalia and allow the UN to begin negotiate a political truce between the warring factions. It is true that warlords and armed gangs have paralyzed UN relief agencies who cannot move food even though thousands are dying of starvation. We only fear that the nations have eased the balking of the UN Security Council too often to U.S. pressure and Somalian operation itself should not set a precedent. The Security Council action points to a direction in which the things would be moving in future. Should the

Security Council try to draw parallel in other situations, there would be extensive resistance.

The UN Resolution involves Chapter 7 of the Charter. [words indistinct] after determining the situation in Somalia, the particular obstacles made to the distribution of humanitarian assistance constitute a threat to international peace and security of the area. It also authorizes the Council to use force to end violence as international peace and security is treatened. U.S.-led 18-nation force had acted in Iraq during the Gulf crisis in the Chapter 7. This time, 50-nation Organization of African Unity is reported to have asked the Council to authorize the military-backed humanitarian operation.

Iran

Reaction to Events in India Continues

Velayati Summons Indian Envoy

LD0712173492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Following the publication of the message of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i about the destruction of Babri Mosque, Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon summoned the Indian ambassador to the foreign ministry and told him: This message of the leader of the Islamic revolution on the matter shows the depth of the concern of the world of Islam. He stressed: The destruction of Babri Mosque by Hindu extremists has not only evoked the wrath of the Muslims of India, but also hurt the feelings of all the world's Muslims.

Expressing his regret about the fact that government forces had not intervened to prevent the destruction of the mosque, Mr. Velayati called on the Indian Government to oust the fanatical extremists from the mosque as soon as possible and take steps to rebuild it.

Expressing regret about the tragedy, the Indian ambassador said: The destruction of the Babri Mosque has shamed the Indian nation. The Indian president and prime minister have issued statements condemning it in which the action of the extremists is described as a clear violation of India's cultural laws and traditions.

The Indian ambassador assured that he would convey the message of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Envoy Summoned Second Time

LD0912111792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] In the wake of an incident in which a number of unknown individuals entered and attacked the Iranian cultural center in Bombay, the Indian ambassador was last night summoned to our country's Foreign Ministry for the second time and given a strongly-worded statement on the subject. In the statement the Indian Government is asked to take steps to quickly arrest and punish the perpetrators of this act, which is contrary to diplomatic and international norms and, in addition to fully repairing the damage, to take effective deterrent steps to safeguard the personnel and official missions and citizens and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Khamene'i Outlines Position

LD0712150392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Following the extremist Hindus' savage act of destroying the Babri Mosque in India, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of Muslims, in a message, emphasized that the Iranian Muslim nation and all the world's Muslims support the Muslim people of India. He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister should endeavor to draw the attention of the Government of India to the meaning of the fulfillment of the rights of Muslims. The following is the complete text of the message of the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution addressed to Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your excellency, Doctor Velayati, respected foreign minister.

The regrettable news of the destruction of one of the ancient and important mosques in India by a group of ignorant and provoked fanatics [mote'asseb], places a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of all Muslims not only from the point of view of defending a mosque against the attacks of infidels and enemies, which is a general duty, but, also in the sense that the enemies—by provoking an ignorant and deceived bunch of people—have wanted to give vent to their never-ending grudge and prejudice against Islam and Muslims by destroying one of the monuments of the rule of Muslims and one of the marks of the glory and spendor of Islam in India as well as one of the manifestations of the art and civilizations of Islam.

In this incident, the masses of deceived and fanatical Hindus are to be blamed less than the diabolical hands and minds which, through this deed, intend first to humiliate the large community of Muslims in India—alienating and weakening them in their own homes—and second, to fan the flames of sectarian differences in India which for sometime now had somewhat calmed down due to the wise behavior of the two sides following British incitement during the period of the struggle for independence.

India's Muslims are dutybound not to tolerate this abjectness on the part of their enemies, and your excellency, within the framework of diplomatic relations with the Government of India, should make the necessary effort so that the Government of India takes the required steps to fulfil the rights of Muslims and pay attention to the fact that this issue goes beyond being a local one, and to the fact that the Muslim nation of Iran and all Muslim nations are standing behind India's Muslims and will never be prepared to see hundreds of millions of Indian Muslims being subjected to such a blatant and explicit insult.

It is expected that the Indian Government adopt measures and intelligent steps to immediately stop this incident from spreading and from being turned into a complicated problem.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i; 11 Jamadi al-Thani, 1413 AH; 15 Azar, 1371 [6 December, 1992]

Yazdi Comments

LD0712172592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Judicial Branch Head Mr. Yazdi said at today's session of the branch said: The UN Human Rights Commission's resolution on the human rights situation in Iran was based on unfounded information, unofficial documents, and biased reports from opponents of our system.

The head of the Judicial Branch also expressed deep regret at the destruction of the Babri Mosque in India by a group of extremist Hindus, called on the government of India to rapidly and decisively confront the elements responsible for this tragedy; their action blatantly contravened the constitution of India concerning observation of the rights of religious minorities.

In conclusion, the head of the Judicial Branch termed as very fruitful and useful the outcome of his visit to Sudan.

'International Conspiracy' Seen

NC0712194092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Hindu aggression against the historical Babri Mosque in India's Uttar Pradesh state is a hideous crime, a blatant violation of holy places held sacred by Muslims in India and abroad, and a very serious precedent that might open the doors wide for Islam's enemies to perpetrate similar crimes in India or other Islamic areas. This makes it necessary for Muslims to confront this cowardly crime firmly, just as they confronted the crime committed by Salman Rushdi, author of "The Satanic Verses." [passage omitted]

The Indian Government bears full responsibility for the Babri Mosque's destruction because no legal or formal grounds exist to perpetrate this act, thus violating the sanctity of this historical 16th century mosque. Law and Muslim and world opinion require the Indian Government to preserve the safety of Muslims and protect their possessions, sanctities, and places of worship. Regrettably, the Indian Government has not adopted the necessary measures to prevent this crime despite the fact that this issue has been the subject of Muslim-Hindu controversy and disputation for several years. The Muslims are in the right. The Hindus allege that the mosque was built on the ruins of a Hindu temple during the reign of the Mogul ruler Babur in the 6th century [as heard]. This claim has no basis in fact. Even when the Hindus embarked on their crime, the Indian Government did not effectively intervene to prevent the cowardly act. It intervened in force, however, to prevent the Muslims from expressing their anger at the Hindu crime, killing more than 55 Muslims in various Indian Muslim areas. This demonstrates this government's collusion in the crime. [passage omitted]

The Indian Government must correct its stance vis-a-vis the Muslims by quickly punishing the culprits and reconstructing and renovating the mosque. Otherwise, this act will cause Muslim anger to erupt inside and outside India in a manner unfavorable to the Indian Government. [passage omitted]

The Hindu crime again exposes the major and manifest international conspiracy against the Muslims and their sanctities. This crime is not separate from the massacres and arrests carried out by Islam's enemies against Muslims in Burma, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, Iraq, and elsewhere. Neither is it separate from "The Satanic Verses" and the Zionist-Egyptian- Algerian-Western hostile media campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the worldwide Islamic awakening. It is another chapter and a new manifestation of the great conspiracy fomented by the United States, the West, the Zionist enemy, and their client regimes in our Islamic world. The role of the CIA and the Zionist Mossad in the incidents involving Hindus and Muslims in that region is no longer secret. Indeed, the Indians admitted last year that those intelligence services played a role in provoking seditions and conflicts between the Hindus and Muslims.

Again we state that the Muslims must firmly confront this great conspiracy. They must condemn the demolition of the Babri Mosque, declare their denunciation of this act to the Indian Government, and urge it to contain the crime and restore the Muslims's lawful rights in that state. [passage omitted]

Bazaars, Schools Close

NC0912122992 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec 9 (AFP)—Bazaars and religious schools closed across Iran Wednesday to protest the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque by Hindu fanatics.

The traders' Islamic associations took the rare step of ordering the one-day shutdown as a sign of mourning after the razing of the mosque was condemned by spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i.

The presiding committee of the Iranian parliament late Tuesday urged Indian authorities to take "workable" measures to end the crisis and warned them not to fall into a "perilous trap" set by the "world arrogance," the United States.

It accused Washington of seeking to divide potentially strong countries "into small nations as part of the new world order."

Demonstrations were planned for Friday as Iranian authorities kept up their campaign over the destruction of the mosque last Sunday.

Officials React to UN Human Rights Report

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD0612195292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Following the resolution of the third committee of the UN General Assembly on the conditions of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, our country's Foreign Ministry has announced that, while the sensitivity of the United Nations to the conditions of human rights in the member countries is a principled attention, this attention should not become an excuse for political intentions whose first victim is the lofty rights of man.

The statement also says that when the report—approved by the third committee of the General Assembly—is based on incorrect preconceptions involving biased claims and unjust information, then the study of factual realities—not only in defense of the declaration of human rights, the foundation of which is the individual—will be mistaken, and the more general right, which is the rights and responsibilities of UN member countries, also will be disregarded.

Our country's Foreign Ministry also pointed out that the misuse of the issue of human rights, as a political tool, not only fails to guarantee human rights, but also is itself a violation of the rights of man. The ministry emphasized that the use of unjust and illegitimate means is not in the interest of the United Nations, whose existence is based on the membership of countries with different political traditions and culture.

The statement also said that the lack of a balanced assessment and the inattention of the UN report to the answers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while giving a human rights slant to the continuous and steadfast struggle against the deadly smuggling of narcotics, and even ignoring the values of beliefs of a Muslim nation—which through its belief in the supreme value of the lofty rights of man has manifested its political will in the form of a religious-political system—constitute a means of influencing international assemblies by the arrogant powers, which do not see the beliefs and will of the Islamic Republic of Iran as being in accordance with their interests.

It is evident that, on the basis of the contents of its Constitution, the Islamic Republic of Iran pursues the judicial process and issues verdicts in courts according to Islamic principles and in line with international standards; and it believes that human rights criteria should be taken into account with respect and consideration for the cultural values of Islamic and other nations. If human rights standards and the criteria for advancing human rights are to be based on the cultural and philosophical foundations of a specific group of countries, the survival of the cultures and civilizations of other nations will be placed in jeopardy.

The statement says in conclusion: The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that the United Nations will pay the necessary attention to real priorities concerning violations of human rights throughout the world, and that, instead of endorsing biased reports which are really motivated by opposition to and disrespect for the values which Muslims believe in, it will guarantee the most natural aspects of human rights, that is: the right to live, the security of Muslim women and children in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Palestine, and the defense of the freedom and will of nations that have become victims of coup d'etats and repression. The United Nations should not permit political prejudice to replace priorities in the defense of human rights.

Assembly Committee Statement

LD0612184392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The Foreign Policy Committee [FPC] of the Islamic Consultative Assembly has rejected the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee's approved document on human rights status in Iran as worthless and the report by the UN secretary general's special envoy as biased. The committee stressed that such an approach to the human rights issue will defile lofty human values and destroy the United Nations' credibility as a world organization for safeguarding the rights of its members.

The FPC issued a statement announcing that the question now arises for the Iranian nation as to why the human rights issue is always raised about those states that are somehow opposed to American policies and also why the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive and effective action against drug smugglers—which is a service to all nations of the world—is depicted in the special envoy's report as a violation of human rights.

The FPC statement says: Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, there have been more than 15 direct elections with great and exceptional turnouts. The report accuses Iran of failing to observe democracy. The FPC considers the objective of such a contradictory and biased approach to be the prevention of Islamic laws being carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran. This violates Iran's independence and sovereignty.

The statement stresses: They must realize that such an approach will make our nation more determined than before. The Islamic Ummah has found its path. The Islamic movement and the movement for revival of Islamic thought are among the most powerful politico-social motivating forces in the world today. Such meaningless antagonism and false reports cannot have any effect on this great, divine movement. The FPC regards such reports and decisions as worthless and stresses that the Islamic Republic of Iran is proud of its Islamic system and warmly welcomes any nonpartisan organization or individual who wishes to understand the realities of the Islamic system without prejudgment and political alignment.

Justice Chief Reacts

LD0812230492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In today's meeting of the officials of the Supreme Court, the Chief of the Supreme Court Mr. Moqtada'i said the recent report by the UN human rights representative, regarding the violation of human rights in Iran, was totally biased and the result of pressures by arrogant powers.

He said in some cases of the report, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been accused of violating human rights because of its fight against drug smugglers, while the fight is an effort to maintain human rights and prevent the involvement of innocent people in destructive drugs.

Paper Cautions Against Islamic Troops in Bosnia

NC0512171392 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5 (AFP)—A leading Iranian newspaper on Saturday warned that any attempts by Islamic countries to dispatch troops to help the beleaguered Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina would backfire and serve Serbian interests.

The commentary was the first of its kind in Iran, where the government has spearheaded calls by hardline Muslim countries for military intervention in Bosnia to safeguard the Muslims there from "genocide."

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati pleaded this position at a meeting last week of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

But the TEHRAN TIMES, generally regarded as being close to government views, said that "Velayati's proposal...is miscalculated and unwise."

"Any attempt for the dispatch of troops from the Islamic countries will end by benefiting the Serbs," the newspaper said.

"Push the Catholic Croats and the Orthodox Serbs to unite against Muslim Bosnians and this will mean the total annihilation of Muslims in Bosnia," it warned in an editorial.

Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i in November urged Europe to intervene "to save the Muslims in Bosnia."

"Otherwise let us do it," he said.

Analysts said the editorial indicated that differences existed within the Iranian Government on ways of dealing with the situation in Bosnia.

ICO foreign ministers on Thursday urged the United Nations to use force against Serbia and lift an arms embargo to end the "genocide" of Bosnian Muslims.

The ministers also called on the Security Council to review the situation in Bosnia by January 15—a date described by a Bosnian source as a "veiled ultimatum."

Nateq-Nuri on 'Human Rights Violations' in Balkans

LD0712234492 Tehran IRNA in English 2018 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7 IRNA—The Majlis speaker today dismissed the alleged human rights violation in Iran as claimed by a United Nations committee saying "we will never be influenced by false propaganda."

'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri in a meeting with the Hungarian Ambassador here Geza Palmai, said the propaganda was a bid to pressure the Iranian authorities to give up their principles and eventually abandon the country's independence.

Drawing Palmai's attention to the genocide of Europe's native Muslim population in the Balkans, he said: "Sorrowfully, in your neighborhood (Bosnia-Hercegovina) human rights are brazenly violated by Serbs, and the irony is their crimes or aggressions are not at all called human rights violations."

The speaker expressed hope that Tehran-Budapest relations in all spheres, especially in the field of economy would expand.

Palmai for his part called for further deepening and promotion of Irano-Hungarian ties in all areas, including parliamentary affairs by way of exchange visits and setting up friendship unions between the respective parliaments.

He specified that after the collapse of communism grounds have been paved for broadening of cooperation between the two countries.

Government Urges End of Fighting in Afghanistan

LD0612211492 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry here today urged the belligerent groups in Afghanistan to exercise self-restraint and immediately cease hostilities.

In a brief statement issued following the resumption of clashes in Kabul, the ministry said any clashes and bloodshed in the current phase of economic hardship and in this cold season, would only add to the difficulties of the Afghan Muslim people.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Islamic government of Afghanistan and all involved parties to settle the existing disputes through negotiation," it said.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Tajikistan

LD0712164692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In the wake of the recent developments in Tajikistan, our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in view of the fact that, by killing innocent people, seditious forces are bent on establishing a reign of bullying and suppression in that country. The statement warns about the massacre of Muslims in Tajikistan, and draws the attention of world public opinion to current developments in that country.

The statement reads: While condemning the occupation of the IRNA office in Dushanbe, the Islamic Repoublic of Iran hopes that the CIS countries, which have accepted responsibility for maintaining security in Tajikistan but have failed to do so, will adopt a neutral stance and take serious steps to alleviate the anxiety of world Muslims.

The statement adds: The Islamic Republic of Iran deems it necessary to point out to all the warring sides in Tajikistan that a continuation of hostilities will only result in weakening and destroying the human and material resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Khamene'i Urges IRNA To Confront 'Propaganda'

LD0712160592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] This morning His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, received the supervisor and managers of the Islamic Republic News Agency [IRNA] and officials in charge of the representative offices of that organization throughout the country. He offered them some guidelines and stressed that the machinery of the news media should be correctly used to advance national reconstruction and the fulfilment of Islamic and revolutionary goals and aspirations.

At this meeting the eminent leader noted that journalism as a profession is a very sensitive, important, and determining responsibility. He said: A large part of world propaganda is carried out through news coverage and today, many of the news agencies and centers for the production and dissemination of news, by disregarding the truth and evidence behind a piece of news, trample underfoot their responsibilities as conscious human beings. What they offer as news to world public opinion is in fact comment and analysis of a piece of news which advances the objectives and interests of global arrogance.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed out that the news and propaganda tricks of global arrogance aim at agitating world public opinion against Islam, Muslims, and especially against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: The news distribution organs affiliated to international Zionism accomplish their objectives and goals through specific arrangement of words and composition of news phrases. They disarm the other side within the framework of conveying slanted news. Today this process is being directed with special emphasis against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the values that Muslim nations believe in.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the need for planning and predicting the IRNA's future so as to smartly confront the news and propaganda ploys and conspiracies of global arrogance's mass-media. He said: IRNA should return the enemy's propaganda and news blows, speedily, using the same machinery and devices that the enemy uses. To do this, journalists and managers of the IRNA should be politically aware and should be penetrating in their outlook. They should also be knowledgeable about literature and culture.

The eminent leader stressed the need for precision and care, the use of correct phrases and useful information in the preparation and writing of news. He said: IRNA should operate as if it were the pulse of the country and the Islamic system, and it should place correct and useful news concerning domestic and external events at the disposal of people and officials.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized the importance of analyzing the news of international news media and he reminded the IRNA officials of their sensitive and decisive duties.

The report states that before the remarks of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Mr. Verdinezhad, managing director of the IRNA, spoke briefly about the outcome of the seminar of the officials in charge of the IRNA's centers and offices throughout the country. He expressed the hope that those working at this news agency will be able to intelligently confront the cultural and information onslaught, as well as atheistic models and the psychological manipulations of the enemies of Islam. He also hoped that they may be able to carry out their important duties by producing news needed by the people and the officials.

U.S., Israel Accused of 'Propaganda Campaign'

LD0612215192 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—The Iranian Ambassador to Ankara, Muhammad Reza Baqeri, said here Saturday that Washington and the Zionist regime were behind the propaganda campaign in the foreign media on the alleged stockpiling of arms by Iran, in order to busy the minds of regional people with a topic that might cause them to overlook the immediate actual threat of the Zionist entity.

He said the main powers behind that kind of hostile propaganda mean to frighten the regional countries and encourage them to buy more weapons from the West.

Baqeri said the world knows that Iran does not intend to make an aggression against any country, and far from it has always supported the tyrannized nations of the world.

The Iranian ambassador who was talking to reporters here said Iran was happy with the result of the meeting of the ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Islamabad and also with the assembly of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

On Tehran-Ankara relations, he said Iran is not satisfied with the present state of bilateral trade exchanges, and called for better efforts to ensure that stumbling blocks in the economic relations between the two countries are removed.

According to Baqeri Iran and Turkey have very good relations in political and cultural areas and that during the visit to Tehran by the Turkish minister of the interior earlier this year, a protocol was signed which provided for regular monthly negotiations between the Interior Ministry officials of the two countries.

He said the Islamic republic thinks highly of the results of a recent meeting in Ankara of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria, and added that the solving of regional problems would be to the best interests of the peoples of the region.

* Japan Providing 30-Billion Yen Loan

93AS0212F London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] The efforts of the Islamic regime to obtain loans from various countries have resulted in the Japanese Government granting loans to Iran for the first time since the Islamic revolution in Iran. The (KIYODO) news agency reported from Japan in the middle of last week that the government of that country, for the purpose of implementing the plan to build a power plant in Iran, will grant Iran a series of loans amounting to 30 billion yen. The above-mentioned news agency explained that the project to build the power plant will be carried out along the Karun River, and the operation of this power plant will improve the living conditions of the people of Iran. In the past four years, in order to meet its needed financial resources, the Islamic Republic has engaged in extensive activities to obtain loans from international financial establishments, foreign banks, the IMF and the World Bank. According to reports by economic journals, at the present this country has a debt of $26 to 29 billion.

* Japan To Provide Loan for Construction of Dam

93AS0212B London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Japan may respond positively to the request of the Islamic Republic for $1 billion in loans to build the Karun-3 Dam.

International financial sources predict that by early next December, simultaneous with the visit of 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Regime, to Tokyo, the Japanese Government will announce its agreement to grant the loan to that country. According to MEED economic weekly journal, published in London, although the amount of the loan from Japan to the Islamic Republic has not yet been revealed, economic affairs experts believe that the amount of this loan will be at least half a billion dollars and at most $1 billion.

The above-mentioned publication, pointing out that the Islamic regime in Tehran has projected receiving $3 billion in loans from abroad to build several dams in Iran in the course of the Five-Year Development Plan, wrote: "Because the Islamic Republic is actively involved extensively in purchasing arms from abroad, Japan so far has avoided responding positively to the request for loans by that country."

* Islamic Development Bank Provides Major Credit

93AS0212H London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Since 1988, the Islamic Development Bank in Jiddah has granted more than $100 million in financial credit to the Islamic Republic. About $18 million of this amount was spent on expanding the sugarcane industries in Khuzestan and $28 million on building a cement production factory in Saveh, and $59 million for development of production activities has been placed at the disposal of steel production industries. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic Republic, who was speaking at the meeting of the directors of the above-mentioned bank in Tehran, announced that the Islamic Bank has so far placed $6 million in interest-free loans at the disposal of the Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic to advance educational programs. Newspapers published in Tehran reported that in 1988 the Islamic Republic, by paying $3.5 billion, joined the above-mentioned bank. This country agreed some time ago to increase its investments in that bank by $245 million. The Islamic Republic agreed to pay that amount in five one-year installments to the Islamic Development Bank in Jiddah.

* 300,000 Afghan Refugees Return Home

93AS0212P London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] According to official statistics, 3 million Afghan refugees live in Iran. Unofficial statistics consider this number to be much higher. In any case, Iran cannot easily handle so many refugees. Hence, a program to encourage them to return has been enacted. These

Afghans who intend to return can take up to 100,000 tomans worth of transportable property along, and those who in the meantime have married Iranians can take their Iranian spouses with them. In exchange, Afghan women who have married Iranian husbands can remain in Iran.

Of the 3 million Afghan refugees, so far only 300,000, that is, one-tenth, have returned to their country. In order to assist in the return of the Afghan refugees, Japan has so far allocated $2.5 billion for this purpose.

The director general of foreign nationals in the Ministry of Interior considers the return of all Afghans, or most of them, dependent on conditions in that country returning to normal. He said: The United Nations has made cash payments to return Afghans from Pakistan to their country, but has not done so with regard to Iran.

Last year, the Ministry of Interior was studying a plan according to which the Afghans residing in Iran were to be centered in camps in order to better supervise their activities, because those Afghans who have come to Iran illegally are heavily involved in criminal activity and the smuggling of narcotics in Iran. But that plan was abandoned because it was not practical.

* Commentary on Rafsanjani's Remarks on Marja'

93AS0213A London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 6

[Article by Hushang Vaziri]

[Text] In the Friday prayers of Tehran usually the first sermon is spent merely on religious or topical issues. But in the 15 Aban [6 Nov] Friday prayers, Hashemi-Rafsanjani disrupted this order. His first Friday prayer sermon was delivered almost totally to drag down 'Ali Khamene'i from the place to which he has climbed. The face of Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic as it is reflected in the mirror of the mass media, is that of a leader safe from any criticism, infallible, wise, and knowledgeable, whose decree not only in Iran but also, like the "guardian of Muslims," must be followed throughout the Islamic world. The face that Rafsanjani painted of the leader in that sermon is quite a different one. In this picture, although he is a leader, he may err. Because he is elected, he can be dismissed. He is not a source of emulation. Hence, in accordance with Shi'ite tradition, his decrees cannot be considered higher than those of sources of emulation. He is a human being like other human beings who may lose his competence for leadership. And in this case, not only can he be dismissed but "dismissed automatically." We cannot help but quote a rather long statement that is wrapped in idioms. Rafsanjani says:

In the opinion of Shi'ites and many non-Shi'ite religious jurists, that is, Sunnites, under the special conditions of a time when we have no ruler explicitly expressed by God, the prophets or imams explicitly expressed by God can be guardians. If there are none, then we are talking about others. In other words, this will be an emergency government. That is, now when a religious guardian becomes the ruler and has been elected in accordance with his qualifications, he cannot just do as he pleases. That would be a dictatorship. This is not the way. This must certainly be within the limits of Islam. It must be on the basis of Islamic standards, and when he deviates from Islamic standards, there are problems. In other words, it creates immorality, and immorality eliminates the first requirement of the ruler. Based on this principle, the justice that is mentioned in regards to the ruler, in regards to the fully qualified religious jurist, itself guarantees the continuation of competence for the position without this requirement. The first requirement is eliminated, and he is dismissed automatically. There will be no need to come and dismiss him.

New Words

Even though it appears that Rafsanjani speaks somewhat with reservation, one can hardly make a mistake about his intention in these statements. What does a "ruler explicitly expressed by God" mean? It means a ruler whose words are from God, and there will be only one meaning in them, which is the word of God. There will be no room for questions. For this reason, "religious jurisprudence," which is a basis for Shi'ism, is valid everywhere except vis-a-vis the explicit expression by God.

In the Islamic Republic, of course, it was never officially stated that Khomeyni was the "ruler expressed explicitly by God," and if it has been stated, it was not accepted by everyone among the rulers. But he was exempted from the laws both in practice and in the Constitution. Article 107 of the revised text of the Constitution states: "After the grand source of emulation and the great leader of the global revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his reverence Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, who was recognized and accepted by the decisive majority of the people as the source of emulation and leader (you see that it speaks of being "recognized and accepted" and not of being elected), the selection of the leader is the duty of the experts elected by the people. "According to the same article, the experts choose a qualified individual as leader, and the "leader is equal before the law with other people in the country."

There is no need to search far to find a contradiction in this regard that exists in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic. For this reason, there is room for contradictory interpretations by the leader and its operation. Both in the Constitution and in the daily educational-propaganda events of the Islamic Republic, the religious guardian is placed in a position that, contrary to the emphasis in the Constitution, he cannot be equal to other individuals in the society.

If we want to live up to the statements that the high-ranking operators of the government of the Islamic Republic have made on this issue, that the ruling by the religious guardian is above the law, we can fill several pages of the newspaper. Among those who have made statements of this kind and have tried to put 'Ali Khamene'i in a position that Khomeyni occupied, more than once we see the name of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Islamic president, as well.

But what is quite new are the statements of Rafsanjani in the first Friday prayers on 15 Aban. Why has Rafsanjani just remembered that the ruler is elected by the people, that the ruler can commit unusual acts and must hence be dismissed, that the ruling of the religious guardians, whatever it is, is not automatically proper and must conform to civil and religious laws? All indicators speak of Rafsanjani, who has fallen into a tight spot in many respects, having found no solution but to counterattack in the face of the attacks by his opponents. Of course, so far, he had not sat by silently. He said that by thinking about religious drinking spots, graveyards, and holy shrines one cannot engage in cultural struggle. He said that in this battle, those will win who in the arena of thought have a stronger weapon. But this time he has preferred to aim his rifle at the highest target in the Islamic Republic and tear apart the sacred halo that has gradually been woven around 'Ali Khamene'i.

There is little doubt in this regard that 'Ali Khamene'i, under the directorship of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the alliance of Ahmad Khomeyni, reached the position of leadership. We only know that in that important session of the Assembly of Experts, which voted for Khamene'i, there was much ruckus, and the leader that emerged from that stormy session was so humble (or still did not have the sufficient self-confidence) that he said this election was "temporary" and that in the Islamic Republic there were those who were much more deserving of leadership.

Rafsanjani's calculation was that by attaining the position of president and enjoying executive authority much more than the prime minister, he would push Khamene'i into a ceremonial position and in any case would have him in his own hands.

Three Mistakes

In this connection, Rafsanjani made three mistakes. His first mistake was that he evaluated Khamene'i only on the basis of his political abilities and experience and ignored his astonishing ambition. His second mistake was that he severely underestimated the power of the conservative faction in the Islamic Republic. His third mistake was to ignore the conflict that he had with the Council of Guardians from the days when he was the speaker of the Majles. This mistake caused him not to be able to evaluate the composition of the Fourth Majles properly and realize that this Majles, more than being a product of the minister of interior, is a product of the Council of Guardians, a Council of Guardians which, due to its religious jurisprudential world view, is incapable of understanding the economic reform plans on whose success or failure he has pledged the existence or nonexistence of his government, let alone digest it. It is no accident that Ahmad Jannati, the spokesman of the Council of Guardians, places the largest and most cogs in the wheel of the government.

It is not the first time that Rafsanjani has tested his powers against the Council of Guardians. This test of power began when he was the speaker of the Majles. If the differences between the two institutions of the Islamic Republic often ended in the interest of the Majles, it was because Khomeyni as the ultimate judge, mostly took the side of the Majles. In that manner, during the whole four years of the Third Majles, when the quarrels between the two institutions reached their height, the Council of Guardians looked almost like an image on the wall rather than an institution that can veto the ratifications of the Majles or consider the determination of the competence of the candidates of the Assembly of Experts, or more importantly those of the Majles, its exclusive right. A look at the political scene of the Islamic Republic after Khomeyni's death clearly shows that the "lion's share" of the divided power of Khomeyni was gained by the Council of Guardians.

Against these powerful enemies, Rafsanjani would have to finally start the counterattack and get it going. He started the attack with those whose thoughts take shape around "religious water troughs and graveyards." But without going through the middle levels, he suddenly jumped to the highest step on the government ladder. This shows haste. But are there not but a few months left to the end of his first presidential term?

* Rafsanjani Stresses Leader's Limited Powers

93AS0212A London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 pp 1, 9

[Text] The extensive efforts to place 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, in a position with extensive authority equal to that which Khomeyni possessed is supported by such high-ranking clerics as Azari-Qomi and Mohammad Yazdi. If this effort succeeds this leader cannot be dismissed, and because he cannot be dismissed automatically he cannot be "elected" either. Along with this issue, there are whispers that Khamene'i, in addition to having the title of leader of the Islamic Republic and the "religious guardian of Muslims," deserves the title of grand ayatollah. Azari-Qomi and Mohammad Yazdi have said that his decrees are higher than those of the sources of emulation.

In the heat of this effort, the speech of Rafsanjani, who is an elected leader and can be dismissed and whose authority is limited, has been interpreted as a counterattack on the conservative clerics front. Rafsanjani once again emphasized that the present leader of the Islamic Republic is not a source of emulation and if he is unable to carry out his duties within the limits of religious and civil laws, he is automatically dismissed. If an "emergency situation" occurs, his place must be filled as a "religious obligation." The meaning of Rafsanjani's words is that if Khamene'i is put aside, they should not wait for a fully qualified religious leader or even a source of emulation to be found to replace him.

The president of the Islamic Republic and Friday imam of Tehran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his Friday sermon, 15 Aban (6 Oct), for the first time spoke about problems that might cause the leader to forfeit his qualifications to govern. He also spoke about the leader being "elected" and said that because of "technical problems" for implementation, the Islamic Republic has chosen a two-step election to choose the leader, otherwise, these elections can be "one-step and direct." Rafsanjani said: The "religious guardian" chosen to govern cannot act autonomously and become a dictator, or "he will be automatically dismissed, and there will be no need to dismiss" him.

Whereas earlier, Azari-Qom and Ahmad Jannati, two very influential figures in the Islamic Republic, had said explicitly that the ruling of the "religious guardian" is above the law, and obedience to him is "unquestionably obligatory," political observers interpret these statements by Rafsanjani as an implicit warning to Khamene'i. Considering the fact that the opponents of Rafsanjani in the Majles and other centers of power have gained the support of Khamene'i, Rafsanjani's warning has not been ignored.

Rafsanjani said: "The ruler cannot do what he wants. He is bound by a framework. The framework of divine religions are the religious laws. If he deviates from the framework, he will lose his competence and will no longer be a ruler.... If the government is not acceptable, is not fully qualified, anyone who is able must as an obligatory act do it, and the affairs of the society must be managed. Only that government is no longer an ideal one, it is considered an emergency government."

Government of the People by the People

While criticizing "absolute dictatorship," a form of which is "absolute religious guardianship," he considered the best form of government a "government of people by the people, that is, a democracy" and continued: "The governments that are good in our world are those that are mixed with democratic principles and the rule of the people, which is now common in the world. Perhaps the best governments in the world now are the popular governments in which individuals are elected through the vote of the people."

The discussion about "the government of the people," which Rafsanjani has been emphasizing is of special importance in the Islamic Republic because quarrels among the supporters of the rule of the people, on the one hand, and those of the "rule by a religious guardian," on the other, have escalated as two opposing schools.

It is noteworthy that Rafsanjani once again pointed out that Khamene'i is not a source of emulation, whereas Azari-Qomi and Ahmad Jannati have explicitly said that the decrees of the leader as the "religious guardian of Muslims" are higher that those of the sources of emulation and are given priority. Rafsanjani pointed out that the leadership of Khamene'i is based on a decree ascribed to Khomeyni, who omitted the requirement of being a source of emulation from the qualifications of the leader and said that it is sufficient for the leader to be "a fully qualified religious jurist." The president of the Islamic Republic again turned to the "limitation and conditionality" of "religious guardianship" and said: "It is not that when a religious guardian becomes a ruler and is elected because of his qualifications, he can do as he pleases. That is not so. That would be a dictatorship. It has to be within the limits of Islam. It must certainly be in accordance with Islamic standards. Deviation from Islamic standards causes problems. In other words, it causes immorality, and immorality invalidates the first requirement of the ruler. Based on this principle, the justice that is mentioned in regards to the ruler, in regards to the fully qualified religious jurist, itself guarantees his competence, and in the absence of this primary requirement he is automatically dismissed. There is no need for others to dismiss him." Rafsanjani pointed out that voting to elect the leader "in our country is not indirect. In other words, the people vote for the experts, and the experts choose the leader. This can be done directly as well. We have devised it in this way in our Constitution. Because of the technical problems that might occur in implementation, we found it more practical."

Reemphasis on Khamene'i Not Being a Source of Emulation

The president of the Islamic Republic added: "From the viewpoint of Shi'ism, government is very limited.... In personal terms, it must be based on people's votes even though indirectly. In practice it must act on Islamic laws.... He must be a religious jurist at the level of understanding of religious laws.... As the Imam determined at the end, we omitted the requirement of being a source of emulation from our Constitution based on the Imam's opinion and considered religious jurisprudence sufficient."

The important point is that Rafsanjani refers to Khamene'i's not being a source of emulation while some centers of power want to promote him to the position of source of emulation by publishing a dissertation by him. Second, for the first time Rafsanjani has revealed that, "We, based on the opinion of the Imam, omitted the requirement of being a source of emulation from the qualifications of the leader," whereas so far he had pretended that it was a personal recommendation of the Imam.

Even though these hints by Rafsanjani are still hidden, they are quite contrary to the propaganda policies of the factions that try to place 'Ali Khamene'i, like Khomeyni, above the law.

* Guards Merge With Law Enforcement Forces

93AS0212M London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 3

[Interview with Colonel Ahmadi, commander of the law enforcement forces of Lorestan, this week by reporters in Khorramabad]

[Text] Part of the Guard Corps was merged with the law enforcement forces. Colonel Ahmadi, the commander of the law enforcement forces of Lorestan region, said this week in Khorramabad to reporters: According to an agreement between the Guard Corps and the law enforcement forces of the country, a group of guards employed in various cities were transferred to the law enforcement forces and are serving as a cadre of the law enforcement forces. Colonel Ahmadi said: These guards will participate in providing security and preventing prohibited acts and instructing to do good as well as other duties.

* Credits Postponed Due to Lack of Foreign Exchange

93AS0212J London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] **The value of the rial vis-a-vis the dollar dropped to its lowest level in the history of foreign currency exchange in the country.**

The decrease in the foreign currency revenues of the Islamic regime and the allocation of a major part of the financial resources of the country to import consumer goods, arms, and weapons from foreign countries caused the banks and financial institutions in Iran to refuse to repay the debts involving credit documents. Experts on the economic issues of Iran believe that importing $28 billion worth of goods from abroad in 1991/92, the decrease in the price of crude oil on the world market, the unprecedented drop in the value of the dollar vis-a-vis other European foreign currencies and the Japanese yen, and finally the decline in the value of the rial vis-a-vis the dollar in the past two weeks have been followed by the delay in the financial obligations and the inability to pay debts related to credit documents. MEED, the weekly economic journal published in London, in its last issue reported on the decline of the rial vis-a-vis the dollar and wrote: "The delay by the Iranian banks in repaying their debts and their financial obligations related to credit documents has even gone farther than a few weeks, and a delay until next March is expected in meeting foreign currency obligations. Reports from trade sources in Germany, Austria, England, France, Italy, and other trade partners of the Islamic Republic indicate that Iranian banks in Europe without exception have expressed their inability to meet their financial obligations concerning credit documents, and most of them explicitly respond negatively to these documents.

Simultaneous with the Islamic regime's confrontation with problems related to the shortage of foreign currency to meet its financial commitments, the market of foreign currency in Tehran also became unstable, and the value of the rial vis-a-vis the dollar on the open market (floating foreign currency) decreased by more than 12 percent compared to two months ago. Early this week, every dollar in Tehran was exchanged for about 153 tomans, and hence the value of the national currency of Iran vis-a-vis the dollar dropped to its lowest level in the history of foreign currency exchange in the country. Those involved in foreign currency trade in the Tehran market believe that the decline in the value of the rial vis-a-vis the dollar is mostly due to people's understanding of the critical financial situation of the government and their awareness of the unprecedented decrease of the existing foreign currency reserves at the disposal of the regime. The continuation of instability in the open foreign currency market and the increase in the price of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial forced the Central Bank of the Islamic regime, following the unclear and vague foreign currency policies, to increase the price of the dollar to the floating rate, from 143.5 tomans to 145.5 tomans. The unprecedented increase in the price of the dollar on the open foreign currency market in the past three weeks clearly affected the imported goods market and also domestic production and caused the suppliers of various consumer and other goods to increase their prices by 10 to 20 percent compared to those in mid-Aban [Nov]. A Tehran passenger told our KEYHAN reporter that at the present, the money that governs the economic and social life of the people is the dollar and people calculate the value of various goods and services on the basis of this foreign currency. This passenger added: "The dollar-based economy of the Islamic Republic, due to lack of experience, mismanagement, and corruption in the government organizations, has brought about numerous calamities and problems, among them inflation and the high price of all one needs to live."

* Value of Nonoil Exports Increases 12 Percent

93AS0212N London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] The value of the nonoil exports of the Islamic Republic in the first seven months of this year, based on the dollar at a rate of 145 tomans, amounted to $70.3 million. The Customs [Organization] of the Islamic Republic mentioned the rial value of nonoil products exported abroad during the period in question as about 102 billion rials and announced that these exports compared with a similar period last year increased by 15 percent in weight and 12 percent in value. The annual report of the Customs [Organization] of the Islamic Republic states that the most important export item from Iran in the period in question, as before, was woolen and silk handwoven carpets, which compared to a similar period in 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] shows an increase of about 7 percent in value and about 3 percent in weight. With regard to nonoil goods exported from the country in the first seven months of this year, pistachios and shelled pistachios ranked second. During the same period, the merchants of our country sent 43,000 tons of pistachios at a value of 10 billion rials to the international markets. A comparison of the export of this item compared to a similar period last year shows a decrease of 12 percent in value and 11 percent in weight. The Public Relations Office of the Customs [Organization] of the Islamic Republic pointed out in its report that the exporters in the first seven months of this year exported about 5 billion rials worth of copper and aluminum containers. In addition to these goods, during the period in question, Iranian merchants sent leather shoes at a value of 828 million rials and fresh shrimp at a value of 274 million rials to foreign consumer markets.

In addition to the export of nonoil products mentioned above, the Islamic Republic sent caviar, dried fruits, fruits and vegetables, saffron, pharmaceutical plants, hides, (salambur), and other similar goods to purchasing countries.

* Over Half of Khuzestan's Work Force Unemployed

93AS0212G London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Because of its rich oil resources, the province of Khuzestan provides the basic part of the foreign currency revenues of the country. As a result of the bad policies of the Islamic regime and economic bankruptcy, it is faced with unprecedented unemployment. According to Naser Sohrabi, the deputy from this province in the Majles, at the present, 66 out of every 100 people ready to work in the city of Masjed Soleyman and the districts of Haftgel and Naft-e Sefid are unemployed. The above-mentioned deputy, addressing the Majles, considered unemployment and economic recession in Khuzestan as the main factors causing the young to rush to narcotics and become deviants. He said: "My constituency, that is, Haftgel, Naft-e Sefid, and Andika, with an unemployment rate of 36 percent, announced by the Central Office of Labor and Social Affairs of the province of Khuzestan, and 30 percent false jobs, faces a total of 66-percent unemployment." He added: "Should we sit by and wait for this great capital of the revolution to become the prey of the dealers in death or deviant and apostate elements and one day find them behind prison bars?"

In another part of his speech, the deputy from Masjed Soleyman pointed to the prevalence of bribery and corruption in the administrative and government organizations and said: "Under the umbrella of some ministries, there are those who operate through connections, disregarding the historical message and welcoming the well-to-do in order to obtain bribes, leaving the oppressed and suffering in long lines with promises of today and tomorrow behind the closed doors of offices."

In last week's session of the Majles, another deputy from Khuzestan referred to the fundamental problems of this province and said: "Do we not have a Five-Year Plan? What can the justification be for such actions? Is it the fault of the plan or those who implement it? In my constituency alone, there are 400 villages without water. Our Construction Jihad is desperate to find the money for tires for water trucks. Then huge amounts are spent on the Olympic Village." The above-mentioned deputy added: "By eliminating 40 unjustified foreign trips in some ministries, the cost of the drinking water of several villages can be provided."

* Price of Rental Housing Up 31 Percent

93AS0212Q London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Despite the unusually slow market in real estate in Tehran and other cities, the price of land, apartments, and housing in the large cities of the country continues to increase. Based on published reports by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of the Islamic Republic, last spring, every square meter of land in Tehran was bought and sold on an average of about 42,000 tomans. In terms of the high price of land, after Tehran were Esfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, and Tabriz, respectively. The HOUSING ECONOMY bulletin mentions the highest price of land in Tehran last spring, at 134,000 tomans per square meter, and points out that the highest priced land in Esfahan was sold at 61,000 tomans per square meter. The above-mentioned bulletin states that in the first three months of this year (1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993]), the price of land in Tehran compared to a similar period in 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] decreased by about 3 percent, but in comparison to the average price of land in the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz, and Esfahan, increased by 20 percent, 16 percent, and 8 percent. A report from Tehran indicates that early this year every square meter of land under residential construction in that city was transacted on the average at 46,000 tomans. According to the report from Tehran, the highest priced houses are in Shiraz, Esfahan, Mashhad, and Tabriz, respectively.

The difference in the price of housing between Tehran at the maximum prices plays an essential role, such that the maximum sale price in Tehran is three times that of Mashhad and more than two and a half times that of Tabriz and Esfahan. In the above-mentioned report, monthly rental fees for a residential unit with 100 square meter under construction in five large cities of Iran last spring were estimated as follows: Tehran, about 20,000 tomans; Mashhad, 10,000 tomans; Esfahan, 10,000 tomans; Shiraz, 12,000 tomans; and Tabriz, 10,000 tomans. The level of increase in rents and monthly deposits in Tehran in spring of this year compared to winter of 1370 was reported to be about 6 percent and, compared to a similar season last year, about 26 percent. This rate of growth is much greater concerning the villa residential units, so that the rate of increase in rent for villa residential units in the first three months of 1371 compared to winter of 1370 is about 11 percent and compared to spring of 1370, about 31 percent.

* Khorramshahr Port Becomes Operational

93AS0212B London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 1

[Interview with Governor of Khorramshahr Mehdi Jaberi by reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] For the first time in 12 years, Khorramshahr Port, which was totally destroyed in the Iran-Iraq war, will become operational starting next week. Mehdi Jaberi, the governor of Khorramshahr, told reporters last week: The docks of Khorramshahr Port and its warehouses have been made ready for loading and unloading ships. Jaberi said: The Khorramshahr governor's office will assume any damages that threaten ships and their cargo. According to the governor of Khorramshahr, the issue of the ownership of the Shat al-Arab, which was the main bone of contention with Iraq, has been resolved in such a way that ships may dock in Khorramshahr.

* Press Media Faced With Possible Shutdown

93AS0212D London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] In one of its latest issues, SALAM warned that if the failure to pay the foreign currency, which has been allocated to help the press continues, not only smaller newspapers but also large press establishments will face a crisis soon.

SALAM wrote: "For more than two months, the foreign currency requests of the press have gone unanswered, and there has been no opening of credit. Many of the purchase orders for such items as paper, film, and zinc have gone unanswered."

The above-mentioned newspaper pointed out that of the $50 million that is supposed to be given to the press this year (1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993]), so far only $15 million has been paid. According to this report, the ETTELA'AT establishment has reported that if the problem of paper is not resolved, ETTELA'AT newspaper, SALAM, and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI will no longer be published.

SALAM asked: "Why must the payment of foreign currency be halted for months? What policies and factors have caused this?" It concludes that it is not "deserving" of the Islamic regime that its press "not be published due to lack of foreign currency funds."

* Health Ministry Backs Away After Protests

93AS0212C London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] Under the pressure of widespread protests by medical and nursing students, the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education reversed its decision to have hospitals train nurses. After reversing this decision, the officials of this ministry said that it was a decision that had been made and could not be reversed by any means, and the protesting students should not try in vain to pressure the government into reversing this decision.

But the deputy minister of this ministry finally announced that he had reversed his decision to have hospitals set up training for nurses. Informed sources say that if this decision had not been reversed, the crisis that was forming in the universities could have turned into a government crisis.

Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, who visited Shari'ati Hospital on "Nurses Day," said: "The government will attend to the demands of the nurses and will guarantee their rights." Rafsanjani said: "The government has so far been able to meet all the needs of the hospitals." He expressed hope that the treatment and pharmaceutical problems of the country would "soon" be eliminated and added: "The foreign currency that is spent on sending patients abroad" must be saved by strengthening treatment in the country and "provide the possibility for the treatment of patients in the country."

At the present, Iran suffers from shortages of drugs, hospital beds, physicians, nurses, and other medical needs.

* Prefixes of Tehran's Telephone Numbers Change

93AS0212I London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] The Communications Company announced the chart of the new prefix changes for Tehran as follows.

1-	Prefix	22	to	222
2-	Prefix	31	to	311
3-	Prefix	427	to	227
4-	Prefix	437	to	258
5-	Prefix	440	to	880
6-	Prefix	429	to	889
7-	Prefix	457	to	257
8-	Prefix	466	to	886
9-	Prefix	473	to	783
10-	Prefix	488	to	888
11-	Prefix	52	to	562
12-	Prefix	53	to	563
13-	Prefix	60	to	809
14-	Prefix	66	to	646

15-	Prefix	70	to	741
16-	Prefix	75	to	750
17-	Prefix	78	to	786
18-	Prefix	742	to	788
19-	Prefix	82	to	882
20-	Prefix	809	to	642
21-	Prefix	880	to	870
22-	Prefix	889	to	870
23-	Prefix	400	to	600
24-	Prefix	401	to	601

Also, the prefixes 402, 561, and 806, because they are close to several telephone centers, have changed to two or three prefixes. The changes are as follows:

The prefixes of all telephone customers in the Martyr Dialeh Center are changed from 561 to 312. Also, the prefixes of all customers in the Martyr Beheshti Center have changed from 561 to 870.

The prefix 402 has changed to 604, and this prefix will probably change to other numbers. Also, prefix 806 has changed to 809, and this prefix will have other changes.

Pakistan

12 Dead, 50 Temples Damaged in Anti-Hindu Violence

BK0812165092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT 8 Dec 92

[By Shah Alam]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Dec 8 (AFP)—Six Hindu children were stoned to death Tuesday [8 December] when a mob stormed a temple in southwestern Pakistan, raising a Muslim backlash over the destruction of a mosque in India to a new level of ferocity.

The deaths of the children, all aged under 10, brought the death toll to 12 in a wave of communal violence across Pakistan, which marked the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque by Hindu militants with a day of mourning on Tuesday, officials in Quetta said.

At least 50 Hindu temples were destroyed or damaged as angry crowds went on a day-long rampage, battling with police who tried in vain to restore order with gunfire and tear gas, reports and officials said.

A crowd hurling rocks and wielding clubs attacked a temple in Loralai in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, killing six Hindu children aged under 10 who were inside.

The mob then moved on to loot and burn nearby shops owned by Hindus, injuring a Muslim woman and her child in one of the buildings set ablaze.

A Hindu man was killed by a crowd that stormed his home while at least five others died as police tried to protect threatened temples elsewhere in Baluchistan, where authorities turned over four districts to paramilitary forces to restore order, reports said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called on Pakistanis to stop the violence, which observers said was unprecedented in a country where Muslims and Hindus have lived in peace even during the three wars between India and Pakistan. [passage omitted]

As businesses, schools and transport ground to a halt, thousands took to the streets to call for a jihad, or holy war, against India. [passage omitted]

A mob also invaded and ransacked the house of the Indian consul general in Karachi, whose wife and two children escaped injury by locking themselves in a room, the consul general Rajiv Dogra said.

At least 50 temples were damaged or went in smoke, many of them in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, where crowds vented their anger against Hindus, who number about one million in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

More on Demonstrations

BK0812160692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] People staged massive protest demonstrations throughout the country today to condemn the desecration and destruction of the Babri Masjid [mosque]. There was a complete strike, and business centers remained closed as a mark of protest against the sacrilegious act by Hindu militants in India. The federal cabinet at an emergency session in Islamabad yesterday had appealed to the people to register their protest by closing down their business centers.

In Lahore, a huge protest procession was taken out today to condemn the desecration of Babri Masjid. The procession was led by the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne. Prominent Muslim League leaders and elected representatives also participated in the procession. The procession started from Nasir Bagh. The protesters were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans condemning the destruction of Babri Masjid and atrocities being committed on Muslims in India. The protesters called upon the world community and the Muslim world, in particular, to ensure protection of Muslims in India and pressurize the Indian Government to immediately undertake reconstruction of the Babri Masjid.

Addressing the processionists, the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, said the sacrilegious act of Hindu extremists has angered Muslims all over the world and has exposed the so-called Indian claim of secularism. The chief minister urged the international community to take immediate steps to end atrocities being committed on the Muslim minority in India. He also urged the Muslim world to forge unity in its rank and take steps to ensure protection of Muslims all over the world. Member of the National Assembly and president of Lahore metropolitan Muslim League Mian Shahbaz Sharif in his speech said destruction of Babri Masjid demands unity in the Muslim ummah [community] to foil the conspiracy against Muslims.

In the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, big protest processions were taken out today. In Rawalpindi, different processions taken out from various parts of the city joined the main procession at Raja Bazar. The procession led by the federal minister for industries, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, marched through the streets. The processionists chanted slogans against India for its failure to protect the Babri Masjid. They asked India to provide protection to the life and property of Muslim minority in India. The procession later converged into a protest meeting. In his speech, the federal minister criticized for its failure to protect the places of worship of minorities. Federal minister for labor, manpower and overseas Pakistanis, Mr. Ejazul Haq, led another big procession taken out from Rawalpindi cantonment. People belonging to various walks of life including students, lawyers, members of intelligentsia and newsmen participated in the procession. The protest demonstrators chanting anti-India slogans called upon the world community to pressurize India to abandon its anti-Muslim policy.

The Islamabad procession was led by the deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar, Federal Minister Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan, and Muslim League leaders. The processionists raised slogans criticizing the Indian Government for its negligence toward Babri Masjid.

The processionists went to the Indian High Commission, where their representatives presented a memorandum condemning the desecration and destruction of Babri Masjid. Pakistan Muslim League's women wing also took out a process to condemn the desecration of the Babri Masjid. Deputy chairperson of the Senate, Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai, chaired a protest meeting of the Muslim League women wing. Later, they went to the Indian High Commission and presented a protest memorandum.

A number of protest processions were brought out by various organizations in Sindh Province. The participants were raising anti-India slogans. They demanded of peace-loving countries, including ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], United Nations, and human rights organizations, to take immediate measures to protect Muslims and their places of worship in India. The processionists converged into protest meetings in which speakers, including religious scholars, condemned the Indian Government and Hindu extremists for destruction of the Babri Masjid under a planned conspiracy.

Protest rallies and processions were held throughout the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], including the tribal areas. A big procession was taken out in Peshawar to condemn the destruction of Babri Masjid. People from various walks of life, including traders, political workers, and journalists participated in the protest march. Raising anti-India slogans and chanting Allah-o-Akbar [God is great], the marchers paraded through various streets. The procession was led by the NWFP chief minister and several ministers. The processionists later converged into a public meeting which was addressed, among others, by the chief minister, Mir Afzal Khan, and federal ministers—Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billor and Mr. Aslam Khattak—and provincial ministers. They described the destruction of Babri Masjid by Hindu extremists as a shameful act. They said the sacrilegious act of Hindu communalists have exposed the Indian claim of secularism. They appealed to the people to exercise patience and ensure complete protection to the minorities.

People from Baluchistan also staged rallies and took out processions to condemn the destruction of Babri Masjid. The biggest procession was taken out in Quetta. The procession was led by the Baluchistan chief minister, Mir Taj Mohammad Khan Jamali, and the federal minister for water and power, Jam Mohammad Yusuf. The protesters were raising anti-India slogans. They were carrying placards and banners inscribed with slogans condemning the sacrilegious act of Hindu militants and demanding the reconstruction of Babri Masjid immediately. They also called for unity in the Muslim world in the wake of destruction of Babri Masjid. The protest marchers who paraded through various streets and roads of the town later converged into a public meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the Baluchistan chief minister, Mir Taj Mohammad Khan Jamali, condemned the Indian government for its failure to protect the Babri Masjid. He demanded protection of the Muslim minority in India and their holy places. He assured that minorities in the province would be fully protected. In his speech, Jam Mohammad Yusuf said the destruction of Babri Masjid has exposed the Indian claim of secularism.

In Muzaffarabad, processionists came out from various parts of the capital to condemn the demolition of Babri Mosque by Hindu extremists. Later, they converged into a main procession which was participated by members of political, religious, and social organizations and people representing different shades of opinion. Similar processions were taken out from Bagh, Rawalakot, Kotri, Mirpur, and other towns of Azad Kashmir.

Steps Taken To Protect Hindus

BK0812165392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister has directed that all steps should be taken to ensure protection of life, property, and worship places of the minorities. This was stated by the special assistant to the prime minister, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, in an informal chat with newsmen in Islamabad this evening. He said that, in this connection, he is shortly meeting with elected representatives of the Hindus to assure them of the government's commitment for their well-being and to seek suggestions from them to further improve the security arrangements.

The Government of Pakistan has further tightened security measures to protect the Hindu temples and properties following desecration of the Babri Masjid [mosque] that has inflamed Muslim sentiments all over the world. Radio Pakistan's correspondent, quoting reliable sources, says special instructions have been issued to all provincial governments and the law enforcing agencies to take necessary measures to ensure complete safety of life and property of the Hindu community. Personnel of law enforcing agencies have been deployed in sensitive areas all over the country.

In Islamabad, the police have cordoned off the diplomatic zone housing the Indian High Commission for the protection of its premises and the staff.

25 Arrested at Indian's Residence

BK0912034992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Police in Karachi have arrested 25 persons following an attack on the residence of the Indian consul general during a protest demonstration against the desecration of the Babri Masjid [mosque] in India. According to a press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi-South, an unruly mob dislodged from a temple in the Jahangir Kothari area of Clifton broke through the security barricade and entered the Indian consul general's residence, damaging the property. However, the members of the consul general's family and staff were not hurt. Police arrested 25 miscreants on the spot. The station house officer of police, Clifton, was injured during a clash with the mob.

Sharif Asks Politicians To Meet on Mosque Crisis

BK0812144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has appealed to all the politicians, both within and outside parliament, to join him to evolve a common strategy to deal with the situation arising out of the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque]. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this evening, the prime minister said: let us sit together to devise a joint course of action to face the grave crisis. The meeting with the politicians is scheduled for the day after tomorrow. The prime minister said federal ministers are making contacts with all the politicians to hold the meeting.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the Indian government has been told in clear words to reconstruct the Babri Masjid and ensure protection of life and property of the Muslims in India. The demolition has enraged the people of Pakistan and the entire ummah [community]. This grave crisis, he said, could have been averted if the Indian Government had taken necessary measures to protect the historic masjid. He said the Indian Government had been giving us assurances which were betrayed at the last moment.

The prime minister condemned in unequivocal terms the desecration and demolition of the historic masjid. This, he said, violated all moral and legal norms. He said our sentiments are the same which are of our countrymen and the entire Muslim world. The prime minister said there is no doubt that the issue is of grave consequence, but we have to tackle it in a rational manner. He said we will fulfill our responsibilities toward the minorities in a dignified manner.

Leaders React to Destruction of Mosque in India

BK0912024692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Condemnation of the desecration and destruction of the historic Babri Masjid mosque at the hands of fanatic and extremist Hindus in India continues, and more leaders of public opinion have criticized the Indian Government for not taking appropriate steps to protect the mosque. In a statement Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain has described the incident as the most regrettable in the history of the subcontinent. Federal Health Minister Syed Tasnim Nawaz Gardezi said that the destruction of the Babri Masjid has exposed India's so-called secularism to everyone. He added that the incident shows that India's other religious communities have started feeling threatened by the growing Hindu fanaticism. Federal Minister for Youths and Parliamentary Affairs Chaudhary Amir Hussain said the Indian Government has admitted committing the crime of violating the Liaqat-Nehru Pact on protecting minorities' places of worship. Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, retired, has demanded that the Babri Masjid be rebuilt immediately and that there should be no temple on its site. He commended the expression of solidarity by various schools of thought and appealed to religious scholars to stand united on the Babri Masjid issue. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of state for economic affairs, condemned the incident, saying that by its inaction the Indian Government has advertently and scrupulously trampled upon its social contract with the minority communities, especially with the Muslims. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi has asked international organizations like Islamic Conference Organization, the Arab League, and the World Muslim League to take strong notice of this regrettable incident.

Maualan Shah Ahmed Noorani, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan chief and Islamic Democratic Front leader; Professor Khurshid Ahmed, vice chief of Jamaat-i-Islami; Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, a leader of the People's Democratic Alliance; and Pir Fazle Haq, Islami Jamhoori Ittehad central secretary, also have condemned the martyrdom of Babri Masjid and said that the Indian Government's undignified action is a matter of sadness for the peace-loving peoples of the world.

Professor Shah Faridul Haq, convenor of Islamic Democratic Front's Coordination Committee, presented a protest note on the martyrdom of Babri Masjid to the Indian consul general in Karachi yesterday. Some leaders of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan accompanied him. The note strongly protests the desecration and destruction of the Babri Masjid, and expresses indignation and anger at this unlawful, immoral, and barbaric act.

Kanjoo Urges Pressure on India

BK0812113592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have called upon Muslim ummah [community] to mobilize international support to accelerate pressure on the Indian Government to take adequate measures for the protection of life and property of the Muslims and their holy places in India. The call was made by the Afghan foreign minister, Seyyed Soleyman Gilani, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, at their meeting in Islamabad today. The two foreign ministers expressed their deep shock and sorrow at the desecration and demolition of historic Babri Masjid [mosque] in Ayodhya.

Bhutto Postpones Next Anti-Government March

BK0912003092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Karachi, Dec 8 (AFP)—Pakistan's main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto postponed Tuesday [8 December] an anti-government march because of the situation created by the demolition of a mosque in India by Hindu fanatics.

Bhutto said the opposition would instead hold rallies throughout the country on Friday, the scheduled day of the march, to express indignation at the desecration of the ancient mosque. Bhutto, who launched November 18 a campaign aimed at ousting the government, was to start a 200 kilometer drive from Sargodha to Lahore in the Punjab province on Friday.

Meanwhile in the city of Multan, at least 13 demonstrators were killed and 22 injured when the roof of a Hindu temple collapsed during an attack by a mob Tuesday, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The incident raised the death toll to 25 in two days of violence in Pakistan sparked by Sunday's demolition of Babri mosque by Hindu fanatics in the northern Indian town of Ayodyha.

Seven Hindus were among the dead.

Nearly 50 temples have been damaged or destroyed in Pakistan since demonstrations erupted in the country Monday.

Nationals Urged To Avoid, Curtail India Visits

BK0612113992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] And now, here is an important announcement:

The Government of Pakistan has advised its citizens to refrain from traveling to India in view of the persistent incidents of intimidation, harassment, and murder of bona fide visitors while on a visit to India. Pakistani nationals already in India are also advised to return home by curtailing their travel program.

Foreign Envoys Briefed on Indian Mosque Incident

BK0712170492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has asked the international community, especially the Islamic states, to take immediate and strong notice of the desecration of the Babri Mosque in India. Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign affairs, met separately with the ambassadors of Islamic and other countries and told them to carry out their responsibilities in the wake of the grave human rights violations in India. Akram Zaki, during his meetings with the ambassadors, discussed ways to (?face the challenge) through the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization which is posed to the international community, especially the Islamic world, due to the desecration of the Muslim's historical monument at the hands of Hindu extremists. He impressed upon the international community the need to ask India to fully protect the Muslim minorities and their sacred places.

Editorial on Ayodhya Acts, Warns of Fanaticism

BK0812103592 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Dec 92 p 1

[Editorial: "An outrage which was bound to happen"]

[Text] "India, that is Bharat [Sanskrit name for India] and Bharat that is India" has wounded itself in the deepest recesses of its heart and soul. The fundamental fanatics who have demolished a 400-year-old mosque in Ayodhya have actually tarred the face of their motherland. Damage to the mosque structure is reparable; the bruised soul of India will take ages to heal. Or, may not heal at all, if the hair-raising moral of the sordid episode is not learned. How dark and long shadows the deed is going to cast is impossible to tell. Nor can one be sure whether this is the beginning of another dark age or the jolt which may push India into an age of penance and reformation. What is apparent at the moment is that apart from the domes and walls of the Babri mosque, a vast deal more has been shattered. The mad mobs have thrown the Supreme Court into abysmal contempt; torn the Constitution of India (from which we have quoted the expresion in the opening of this piece); turned the dream of secularism into a nightmare; invited the odium of universal outrage; terrorised the country's main minority community. Today, India stands, its head lowered with disgrace.

From what one has heard so far, it appears there is a strongly held held view that the Ayodhaya outrage could have been avoided if Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had not dithered. This is a point on which opinion might differ. What is almost certain is that it is going to take superhuman effort to cope with the demon of fanaticism. This phenomenon also exposes the fact that secular forces in India had timidly suffered the growth of this monster all these years. Now, they are teetering on the brink of surrender. Mr Rao's inclination to avoid taking a stern line in time was, it seems, a reflection of this general diffidence in taking on the fanatics and doing battle with them with the determination that this curse has to be wiped off the face of India. The most disquieting aspect of the events of last Sunday is that the forces of law and order were enthusiastic partners in the vandalism. This is by no means the first time that police has actively promoted fanatic violence. This tendency, which should have been nipped in the bud, has been nursed by the wielders of state power, notably in the Hindi-speaking belt of north India.

It is said that the wise learn from the folly of others. What signals does the Ayodhya tragedy send to us. Our sociopolitical environment is by no means immune from fanaticism. In fact, recent years have seen a clearly perceptible rise in this disgusting tendency. As far as this dangerous trend is concerned, our society is also seriously menaced. And before we inflict homilies upon others, we might do well to do a bit of sincere soul-searching. Let us not be carried away into outdoing India in fanaticism. The authorities should take their warning from Ayodhya and keep their eyes open. A spark has already been spotted in Karachi. Extinguish it without hesitation.

It is only human for the people of Pakistan to feel deeply hurt over what has happened in Ayodhya. Indeed, anyone with any sense of decency would feel squalid to see a place of worship desecrated and destroyed. No culture would countenance such reprehensible behaviour. But in situations of extreme provocation and pain, the wise keep their cool. It is said that it is not given to human beings to be angry and wise at the same time. This is a testing moment for us as a civilised and disciplined people. This is a moment when we must demonstrate to the world that in grief and pain we retain our reason and react with dignity. It would be most unwise for us to try to beat the vandals at their game.

Editorial Calls Incident 'Planned Conspiracy'

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[Editorial: "A shocking outrage"]

[Text] Hinduism's animosity towards islam and its followers has set an all-time record. The demolition of Babri Mosque by Hindu communalists in the Indian town of Ayodhya on Sunday [6 December] was an act of fanaticism of the worst order. It is unprecedented in modern history. That it has occured in a country which never tires of claiming to be the greatest bastion of democracy and secularism in the world is all the more deplorable and condemnable. Frenzied mobs of "Kar Sevaks" [volunteers for temple construction], numbering over 200,000 and chanting religious slogans, descended on the 16th century mosque on Sunday and tore it down with pickaxes, hammers and swords in about four hours, as one eyewitness put it. The VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] zealots then immediately started preparations for the construction of a temple dedicated to Hindu god Rama at the site. According to reports, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) bigots, after destruction of the mosque, carried away pieces of rubble as souvenirs, chanting "Jai Shri Ram" (Hail Lord Rama). After the incident, a top security alert was issued by all the state governments in India to foil a possible Muslim backlash and scores of communally sensitive towns were also put under curfew. It is to be noted that over the past several days Hindu revivalists had been gathering in large numbers at Ayodhya for the final assault on the mosque. The massive attack was launched some 25 minutes before a scheduled ceremony in which Hindu "holy men" were to set up and polish a concrete foundation laid on the 2.77 acre grounds of the mosque. After an initial show of resistance by the security personnel deployed around the site. The Hindu fundamentalists were virtually allowed to mob the mosque and bring it down, while the security personnel looked on, feigning helpnesses. Indian president Shankar Dayal Sharma—almost as an afterthought—urged prime minister Narasimha Rao to keep peace amid fears of a possible Muslim reaction against the outrage. And Mr. Narasimha Rao too came out with a soothing statement.

A close look at the developments leading to the willful destruction of the mosque points towards a planned conspiracy. The Hindu fundamentalists had warned the authorities of their real intentions. They had in fact long been clamoring for the destruction of the mosque to build a Hindu temple at the site. But despite being forwarned, the Indian authorities allowed over 200,000 fanatics to gather in Ayodhya. To the Hindu fundamentalists such inaction amounted to a tacit permission by the government to do whatever they like with the mosque. Thus both the federal and the state governments are as much responsible for the despicable outrage as the actual perpetrators of the unprecedented crime. The Indian government has failed in its constitutional and international obligation to make adequate arrangements for the protection of the mosque. Had the Muslim world taken greater interest in the solution of the long simmering Babri Mosque dispute, things would not have come to such a tragic pass. The Islamic world must take a joint stand on the Babri Mosque issue and send a team to India to force it to hold a special meeting to debate the issue and urge India to provide proper protection to the Muslim minority and their places of worship. The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] would do well to consider imposing sanctions against New Delhi in case it refuses to rebuild the mosque at its original site.